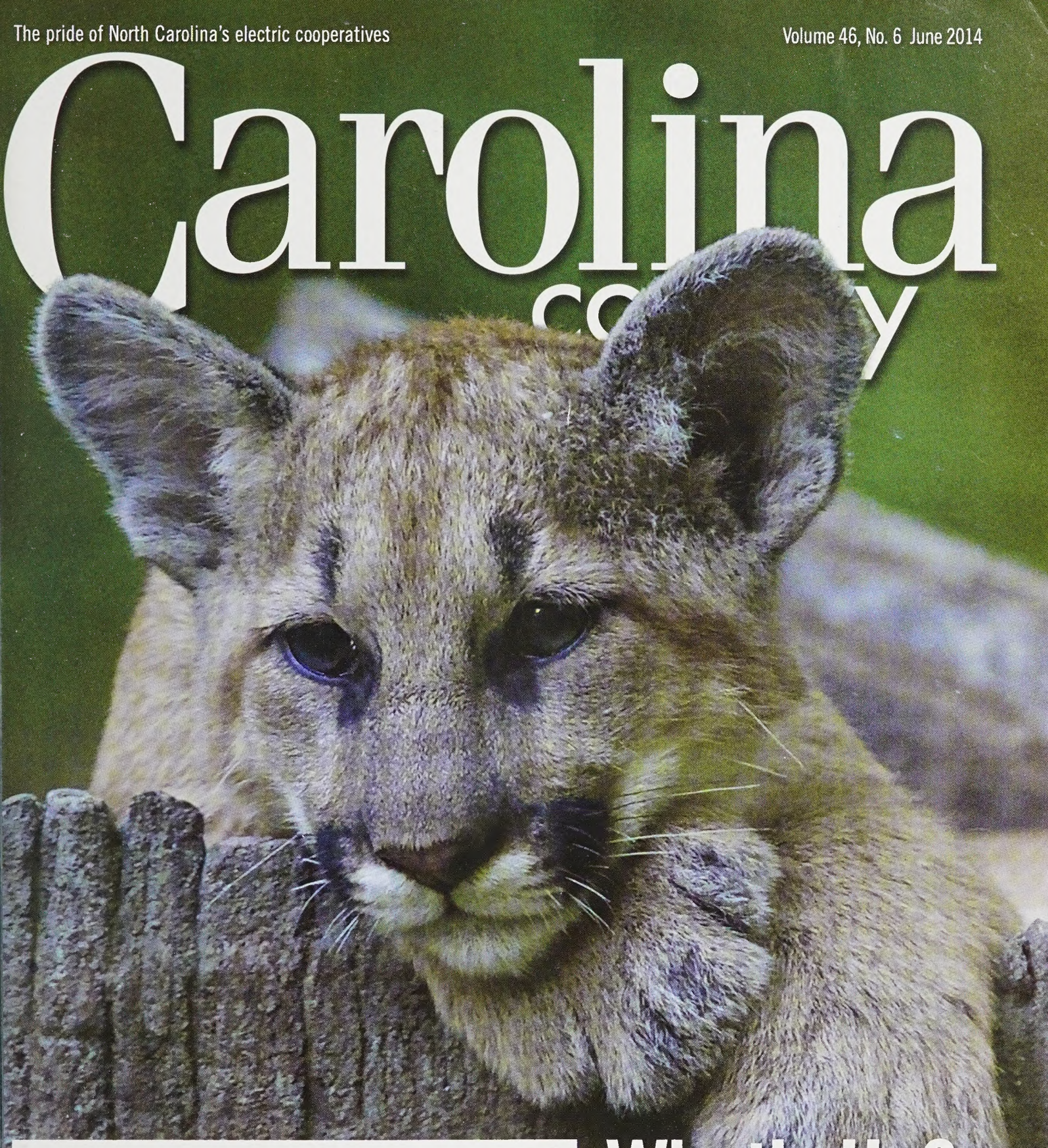
The pride of North Carolina's electric cooperatives

Volume 46, No. 6 June 2014

Carolina country



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PERIODICAL

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

What's Up?

INSIDE:

Bee buzz
The Zoo at 40
Storm safety guide

Piedmont EMC describes sales tax effects—pages 25–28

Crack Open a Luxury Legend

Inspired by history's most treasured artifacts, our Royal Eggs have arrived! Start your collection today for ONLY $59!

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Handcrafted miniature marvels. Our ***Empress Violet Egg*** evokes the timeless elegance of those original Romanov dynasty masterpieces. Deep purples and whispery lilacs swirl along the surface of the hand-painted enamel "shell" and the entire bejeweled egg rests elegantly on a gleaming, crystal-studded stand. And just as each gift to an Empress concealed a hidden surprise, our hinged egg flips open to reveal an ***Empress Violet Egg Necklace*** that dangles from a 24" cable chain.

Your satisfaction is 100% guaranteed. The famous jeweler worked hard to keep his important patrons happy. When it comes to your purchase, you can count on the same kind of royal treatment. Bring home any of our Royal Eggs and if you're not absolutely delighted, send it back within 60 days for a full refund of your purchase price. But once you get a closer look at the "eggsquisite" detail, we have no doubt that you'll be back for the rest of the remarkable collection!

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June 2014
Volume 46, No. 6

FEATURES

6 *A Mountaineer Moves On*
Jacob Brooks credits his school for preparing him for his next move.

12 *What About Batteries?*
Improving battery technology can help solve the energy storage question.

14 *A Brighter Future*
Electric cooperative delegates look at how partnerships help communities prosper.

16 *The House That Mom and Dad Built*
Mary Elizabeth Foust Breeze knew how to get things done.

18 *The Buzz on Our Bees*
Julie Bates learned to get along with honeybees and is glad she did.

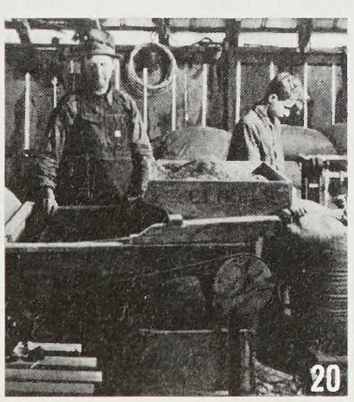
20 *Power Up!*
Cooperative Extension helped rural families learn about electricity and how to use it.

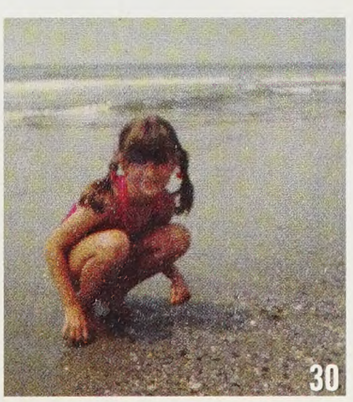
22 *Storm Watch*
An illustrated guide to preparing for severe weather.

30 *The Whale at Wade's Shore*
And other things you remember.

ON THE COVER

One of three cougar cubs who arrived at the North Carolina Zoo this spring after they were rescued as orphans in eastern Oregon. They succeed the popular cougar Oliver, who died earlier in the year after 17 years at the zoo. The zoo celebrates its 40 years this year. See page 45. (Photography by Diane Villa/NC Zoo)





FAVORITES

4 **First Person**
Transformation in the utility industry.

8 **More Power to You**
Loans and grants to help buy or fix a house.

24 **Photo of the Month**
"Good Morning."

29 **Where Is This?**
Somewhere in Carolina Country.

32 **Carolina Country Store**
Feelgoodz flip flops.

34 **Tar Heel Lessons**
Blueberry Month.

36 **Carolina Gardens**
The amazing milk jug.

38 **Joyner's Corner**
What is eBay?

39 **Marketplace**

40 **Compass**
Adventures at the zoo.

46 **Energy Cents**
Cool roofs.

48 **On the House**
Solar water heating.

49 **Classified Ads**

50 **Carolina Kitchen**
Blueberry Pie, Bananas Foster Crunch Mix, Crab Cake Stuffed Portobellos, Fresh Tomato Bruschetta.

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Utility industry transformation

by Mitchell L. Keel

Changes taking place within our industry are transforming your experience as electric cooperative members. For decades we have relied on central generation sources to supply power to homes and businesses, and that generation fleet has grown and become more efficient. We now are encountering two primary forces causing dramatic and costly change to the generation fleet. These forces include increased regulatory pressure, primarily from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the successful production of shale natural gas.

EPA's regulations may severely restrict the use of fossil fuels at generating plants, and could virtually eliminate construction of new coal-fired plants. As the workhorse for decades, coal-fired plants combined with nuclear energy have allowed us to keep retail rates affordable and stable. But by 2020, approximately 20 percent of existing coal generation capacity will be retired. That is a lot of kilowatt-hours that we're going to have to make up somehow. We have been fortunate to have in the interim a supply of natural gas. In recent years, natural gas pricing has been lower and less volatile than it had been, which is good for rate stability.

The source of natural gas has changed as well. Shale natural gas — trapped in natural rock formation several thousand feet below ground — is being produced in large volumes. The technological breakthrough of directional drilling has allowed companies to cost-effectively extract shale gas. In the 1990s, shale gas was an insignificant part of the total U.S. natural gas production, but today it makes up approximately 34 percent. As the generation fleet transitions to more natural gas, however, retail rates will increase. It is the natural supply-and-demand curve: as we desire more natural gas, the price will go up.

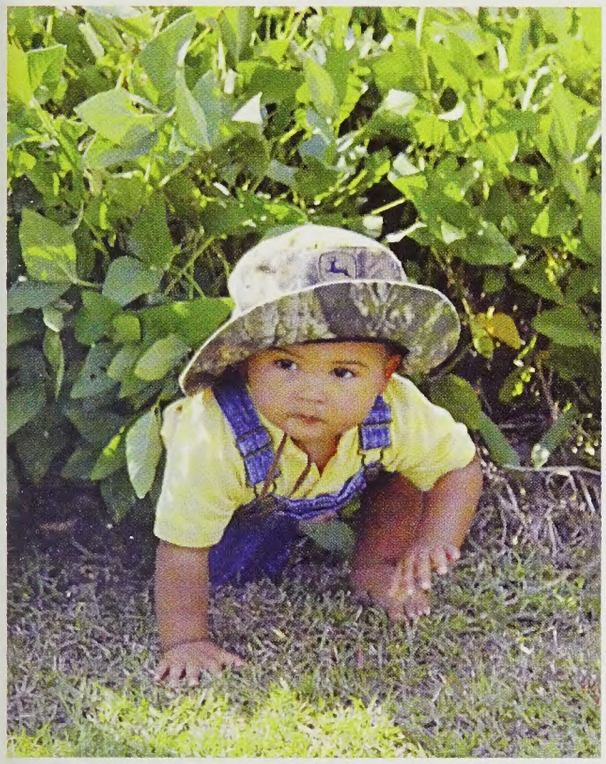
While we have natural gas, however , we don't have sufficient pipelines to get it to us. We may pay a reasonable price for gas, but we're also paying about 15 times that price just to get it to us. That's a bottleneck that needs to be solved.

We are fortunate in North Carolina — because of sizable nuclear energy in our portfolio — that retail costs have been low compared to neighboring states. Besides natural gas, other non-traditional energy sources will round out our portfolio, such as solar and wind resources. The pace of growth will be dictated by legislative policies and incentives. Currently, less than 5 percent of electricity needs in the U.S. are met by solar and wind. We are seeing a dramatic increase in available renewable energy, but we still must meet 95 percent of the needs by other means. We're going to need nuclear, natural gas and coal.

As members, your engagement always has been welcomed, but now there are new ways. You care about how much you pay for energy, how much you consume, how you can become more efficient. Co-ops are showing how energy-efficiency helps you manage your costs. And they are integrating technology that makes your engagement more meaningful, such as real-time outage and restoration information. You can monitor your usage in real-time, too. Flexible payment options, including pre-paying for your power, are other tools that can help members manage their budgets.

You can rely on your cooperative to be a trusted energy provider and to manage its own business efficiently. Today's technology, flexibility and member engagement can help mitigate increases we are seeing in costs.

Mitchell L. Keel is board president of North Carolina EMC, the co-ops' power supply organization. He also is CEO of Four County EMC that serves more than 32,000 member accounts in Bladen, Columbus, Duplin, Onslow, Pender and Sampson counties.



No worms here

Langston Bland, age 2, was helping me, his great-grandpa, check soybean fields for army worms. He came out without finding any.

Rayburn Houston, Potters Hill, Ti-County EMC

Painted bunting

During my 30-year career as a news videographer, one of the most boring shoots was bird-watching on the Outer Banks in 20- and 30-degree weather. Now, 30 years later, I find myself watching my birdfeeders for hours. I have waited for that one bird I have never seen, that you see in magazines but not in real life. My patience paid off when I saw this painted bunting. Thanks to partners Tammy Faye and we will call her "H" who identified this beautiful bird.

Zebedee Garrison, Bridgeton

Time for strawberries

My sister-in-law took some pictures at Putnam Family Farms in Lenoir County. We love their produce. This one shows William D. "W.D." Moye IV, age 3, with a basket of berries.

Jennifer Moye Moore, Wayne County, Tri-County EMC

Rapeseed

My wife and I were out for a ride and came across this field in Hoke County between Wagram and Raeford. I have passed this area many times and have seen corn, cotton and tobacco grown here. However, I have never seen this. When we got home I went online and posted this picture to try to find out what it was, and almost immediately I started getting replies. It's called rapeseed, of the mustard family, used in the production of canola oil and biodiesel, among other things.

Jim Hawthorn, Raeford, Lumbee River EMC

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JACOB'S LOG:

A Mountaineer moves on

A journey through Appalachian State University and beyond

By Jacob Brooks

Three years ago, I started my journey at Appalachian State University, and I cannot believe it has already come to an end. In May, my brother Josh and I walked across the graduation stage together and officially became Appalachian alumni. My experience at Appalachian State has been nothing short of incredible. Here is a little glimpse into why.

As many of you know, I transferred to Appalachian from UNC-Chapel Hill in order to be closer to home while my mother was battling leukemia. I can remember speaking to an admissions counselor as I began this process, and I knew from our first conversation I would feel right at home at Appalachian State. She assured me that no matter what decision I made in regards to transferring, she and the admissions staff at Appalachian State would be a source of support for me in navigating this process. I knew then there was something special about that little place nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains.

In the fall of 2011, I began my sophomore year at Appalachian State. Josh and I moved into a small two-bedroom apartment in the heart of Boone. Our apartment served as a haven for procrastination, countless laughs, awesome memories, disastrous cooking inflicted by yours truly, and moments of panic during finals week. Our humble abode, donned with classic rock posters of The Who, Eric Clapton, Bob Seger and The Eagles, quickly became "home sweet home." No one would ever suspect we were once two little go-kart-riding hellions. Well, maybe they would.

I found my place on campus as an Appalachian Ambassador, showing prospective students and their families around Appalachian's gorgeous campus. I connected with numerous Appalachian alumni and heard their stories about Appalachian and how it enriched their lives. I had the chance to build relationships with administrators and learn the ins and outs of how our university works. Most importantly, I developed life-long friendships. From staying up all night at the annual Appalachian Relay for Life, to saying up all night working on a conference presentation in Atlanta, we never ceased to give our all for Appalachian State.

My brother Josh and I walked across the graduation stage together. This picture was at the last football game of the 2013 season when we beat Western Carolina.

My journey at Appalachian State took me beyond its mountains. I went from the rural pastures of a small farming town in northwest North Carolina to the plains of South Africa. I was able to submerse myself into a new culture and see the world through a different lens. I petted a cheetah, for crying out loud! Appalachian took me beyond those South African plains and into the streets of Shanghai and Beijing. From mountaintops to cityscapes, I have been blessed to witness some of the most beautiful areas of our world. I never dreamed in a million years that I would stand on the Great Wall of China, but Appalachian paved my way to such an opportunity. Finally, Appalachian provided me with a top-notch education. The faculty and staff invested their time and energy in me and provided me with the tools to lead a better life. Appalachian has prepared me for my next step in life.

As I go to Nashville, Tennessee, to join the Teach for America corps, I am forever grateful for my time spent as a Mountaineer. There is simply nothing like the view in Boone at 3,333 feet. As the founder of the Appalachian Ambassadors, the late Mr. Fred Robinette, once said, "It is truly great to be a Mountaineer!"

Jacob Brooks in 2010 represented Blue Ridge Electric on the Youth Tour and North Carolina on the Youth Leadership Council. The North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives awarded him two scholarships.

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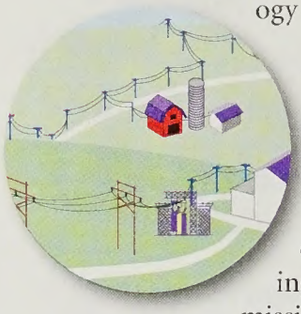
Surry-Yadkin EMC helps teachers understand electricity distribution

The Surry-Yadkin EMC electric cooperative this spring helped 21 local teachers learn about the technology used to generate and deliver electricity.



As part of its STEM Seminar (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), the cooperative hosted teachers from Surry County and Mount Airy city schools for "The Path of Electricity" seminar. Electric co-op professionals explained fuels employed in generating electricity and technology for transmission, distribution and delivery. They provided instructional tools and materials to help teachers incorporate industry topics into their lesson plans. The group also visited Surry-Yadkin EMC's Fairview Substation to visualize some of the concepts.

Greg Puckett, Surry-Yadkin EMC's general manager and executive vice-president, said the session gave teachers "the opportunity to experience the impact of our investment in new distribution technologies," including new communication tools and metering technology that helps members analyze their energy usage.

NC STEM LEARNING NETWORK

Surry-Yadkin EMC is actively involved with local schools, providing resources to administrators, power line demonstrations to students and grants to teachers for creative classroom projects.

How many does it take to change a light bulb?

How many mystery writers does it take to replace an inefficient light bulb with an energy-efficient one?

Two. One to screw it in almost all the way, then a second to give it a good twist at the end.

CO-OPS & COMMUNITY JOBS

Expansion in the Bladenboro Industrial Park means retention of 27 employees and the creation of 7–10 new jobs, thanks to loans and grants from Four County EMC.

Four County EMC teams with business developer to expand Bladenboro park

A manufacturer will expand production in the Bladenboro Industrial Park thanks to economic assistance from Four County EMC.

The electric cooperative, based in Burgaw, provided $1.3 million in zero-interest loans and grants to Bladen's Bloomin' Agri-Industrial, Inc. (BBAI) for incubator expansion at the industrial park. Expanding the existing 20,000-square-foot incubator bay to 49,200 square feet will allow Superior Media LLC, a non-woven textile manufacturer, to increase production, retain 27 employees and create 7–10 new jobs.

The funding through the USDA Rural Economic Development office (a $1 million loan plus $300,000 grant) will combine with $1.5 million from Superior Media for new equipment and $700,000 value from BBAI's land and existing 20,000-square-foot building to provide the needed $3.5 million to complete the project.

The non-profit BBAI has had an impact in Bladen County since 1990, providing revolving loan funding and commercial real estate expertise. BBAI and Bladen County have helped more than 45 businesses create approximately 1,000 jobs in the area and more than $20 million in a new tax base, pumping money into both local and state economies.

The funding Four County EMC acquired from the USDA will continue to benefit the community, beyond the business incubator expansion. The $300,000 zero-interest grant also serves as a revolving fund for Four County EMC. When repaid, the co-op can then loan funds back into the community for other projects.

State tax law changes will affect your cooperative

Changes in state tax law enacted by the General Assembly and Gov. Pat McCrory last summer will affect taxes paid by your electric cooperative beginning July 1.

Currently, electric cooperatives pay the state a "franchise tax" of 3.22% on their electricity sales. Because co-ops consider the franchise tax a cost of doing business, it is incorporated into your electric bill even though there is not a specific line item for it. What does appear on your power bill as a line item is the 3% state sales tax.

The new tax legislation eliminates the franchise tax on electric utilities, including co-ops, and raises to 7% the sales tax on electricity, effective July 1. Co-ops may make the adjustment in different ways, but in most cases an average monthly electric bill of $100 is expected to see a net increase of less than $1.

These loans and grants help rural, low-income individuals and families buy or repair homes

Loans and grants from the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture's Rural Development office can help low-income citizens buy or repair homes in rural North Carolina.

"Our mortgage loan programs are life-savers for so many rural residents who have been unable to purchase their own homes," says USDA state director Randall Gore.

The current interest rate is 3.75 percent and may be reduced to 1 percent for qualifying households.

Rural Development has six area offices and 14 field offices across the state. Area offices are in Asheville, Shelby, Lumberton, Asheboro, Henderson and Kinston. Visit an office or learn more at rurdev.usda.gov/nc.

502 Single-Family Home Ownership Loans

Primarily used to help low-income individuals or households purchase homes in rural areas. Funds can be used to acquire, build (including purchasing and preparing sites and to provide water and sewage facilities), repair, renovate or relocate a home.

- Applicants must be unable to obtain a loan from other sources on terms and conditions that can reasonably be expected to be met.
- You must have sufficient income to pay house payments, insurance and taxes, and necessary living expenses.
- You must possess legal capacity to incur the loan.
- You must meet the basic eligibility requirements and have an acceptable credit history.
- Eligible rural areas have less than 20,000 population.
- Loans may be made for up to 100 percent of the appraised value.
- Repayment period is 33 years and, under certain conditions, 38 years.
- Repayment period for manufactured homes is 30 years.

504 Single-Family Home Repair Loans and Grants

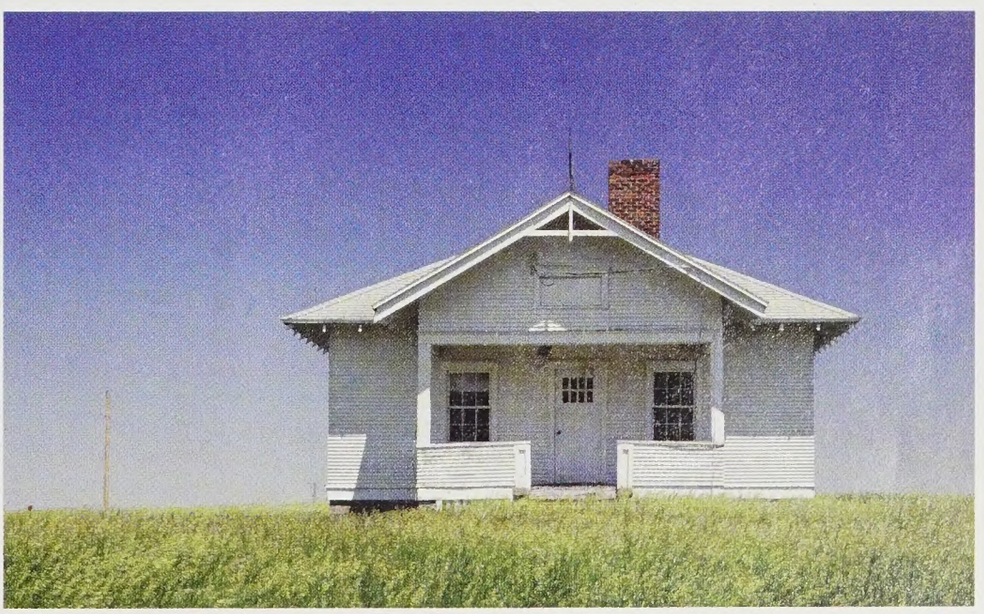
Loans and grants to very low-income homeowners to repair, improve or modernize their dwellings or to remove health and safety hazards.

- Grants limited to $7,500 are available to dwelling owner/occupants age 62 or older. Applicants must own their own home.
- Very low-income homeowners can receive up to $20,000 in loans and grants.
- Eligible rural areas have less than 20,000 population.
- The interest rate on the loan is 1 percent with up to 20 years to repay.

502 Single-Family Home Ownership Guaranteed Loans

The Guaranteed Rural Housing program bridges the gap between government and private mortgage lending. Loans are originated, underwritten and serviced by USDA-approved lenders.

- You apply through the mortgage lender who then submits a request for guarantee to USDA Rural Development.
- You must have adequate and dependable income and be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.
- Buyers must occupy the dwelling.
- Your adjusted annual income may not exceed the limit for the county in which you apply.
- Credit history must indicate a reasonable willingness to meet obligations and ability to repay debts.
- Loans are for new or existing homes in eligible rural areas.
- Property must be structurally sound, functionally adequate, and in good repair.
- Interest rate is negotiated between lender and applicant with 30 years to repay.
- 100 percent financing plus the guarantee fee.
- Closing costs and repairs can be included up to the appraised value.



Try This!

Stemming irrigation costs

Alternative systems can cut a farm's electrical expenses

by Thomas Kirk

Farmers know how expensive irrigation systems can be to run—especially when using a diesel generator. Unfortunately, for farmers only served by a single-phase line (which most modern motors are incompatible with), a diesel generator system seems to be the only practical answer. Stringing out a new three-phase line is typically too costly. However, there are alternative solutions such as Written-Pole motors, phase-converters, and variable frequency drives (VFDs) that can also decrease demand for variable loads.

Written-Pole motors are expressly made for operating on single-phase lines. A Written-Pole motor requires low starting current, using only 25 to 30 percent of that required by an equivalent single- or three-phase induction motor. As a result, a Written-Pole motor can operate on a single-phase line without causing voltage flicker that interferes with other customers. They are highly efficient (92 to 95 percent), and range in sizes from 15 to 100 hp.

In addition to irrigation, their agricultural applications include milling, grain drying, and salt water disposal. For larger horsepower uses, a Written-Pole motor/generator set may be an option. These sets—known as 1-to-3 systems—work well on steady loads, such as refrigeration.

Another alternative is a phase converter—essentially a step-up transformer. But one size doesn't fit all. A phase converter must be designed for a specific motor running at a constant load for a given application. It is the most economical way to get a three-phase motor. A phase converter for a 75-hp motor used for irrigation costs about $12,500.

VFDs are another way to reduce farm operation costs. VFDs vary the voltage and frequency supplied to motors, thus varying their speed. VFDs are useful for two reasons: they can convert single-phase power to three-phase power, and because they can vary a motor's speed, they can save the end-user energy for operations with a variable load.

For example, an irrigation system requires a maximum of 10 hp during peak watering times but only 5 hp most other times. It is inefficient to run the irrigation motor at 10 hp at all times. In addition, a VFD can vary the motor's speed according to the actual work required, saving both energy and demand on the system. This is important as the water lowers during the growing season.

When replacing a diesel-generator, the payback period for VFDs is around two to three years. Farmers should work with a reputable dealer and installer when converting to a VFD. Most installations will require the use of a filter to ensure that neighbors are not impacted by any harmonics generated by the VFD.

After identifying a potential business case for VFDs, phase converters, or Written-Pole motors, a more detailed cost benefit analysis should be performed. When installed in the appropriate situation, both the member and the electric cooperative will benefit from these technologies.

Before purchasing a Written-Pole motor, perform a motor starting and load flow analyses for any system that requires a large horsepower motor on a single-phase line.

Thomas Kirk is a technical research analyst specializing in energy efficiency and renewable energy for the Cooperative Research Network (CRN), a service of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

For more information on how to save energy, and a virtual house tour, go to togetherwesave.com

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What about batteries?

Electric cooperatives hope to see battery technology that allows storage systems for renewable energy and other uses, but it's still in the development stages.

One of the main obstacles to widespread use of wind and solar power production is nature itself: The wind doesn't always blow, and the sun doesn't always shine. But work is under way to develop technology aimed at storing excess energy for when it's needed most, including when the wind isn't blowing nor the sun shining.

The U.S. Department of Energy forecasts that energy storage will significantly change the electric grid. With it, the nation could possibly create an electricity "stockpile." Until then, improving energy storage systems will help make renewable generation sources more reliable and operationally feasible—a critical step as the U.S. develops ways to create a more diverse energy production portfolio.

Another advantage of battery storage systems: They improve power quality and can cut down on blinks—those momentary service interruptions that force you to reset your digital clocks. If enough energy is stored, power could continue to flow to homes and businesses during such an event.

Electric cooperatives on a national level are testing XTreme Power's containerized battery energy storage unit to learn about its viability for stabilizing renewable energy.

If battery energy storage at the utility level can be made commercially viable, it could address issues related to America's aging electric grid.

The state of storage today

Battery storage systems, first developed in the 1970s, have become more viable on a large scale thanks to recent chemistry breakthroughs that increase the longevity while lowering the cost of batteries. If battery energy storage at the utility level can be made commercially and economically viable, it could address issues related to America's aging electric grid.

Although they would be a big investment for any electric cooperative, benefits of battery storage exist beyond leveling out renewable energy supply.

"Well positioned and properly managed battery storage systems can delay the need for building expensive transmission lines that are difficult to site and get permits for in the first place," says Dale Bradshaw, a senior program manager with the Cooperative Research Network, the research and development arm of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

At present, the largest-capacity form of energy storage is pumped-storage hydro—a hydroelectric plant that generates power by using water previously pumped to an elevated reservoir during off-peak hours, when electricity is less expensive. Another option, compressed-air energy storage—power plants "fueled" by air pushed into an underground cavern during times of low electricity consumption—has received more attention because it can be expanded relatively cheaply.

Pumped-storage hydro and compressed-air energy storage facilities generally operate when electricity use soars. But geography and environmental concerns limit where they can be located.

That means development of better batteries could be the key to wide use of energy storage technologies.

Before central station electric service came to rural America via the electric cooperative movement in the 1930s, farmers used "battery sets" that were recharged with windmills and ram pumps. Like conventional sealed lead-acid car batteries, those batteries could go through only a limited number of discharge-charge cycles before they were exhausted.

Today, developers are aiming for batteries that can function through 80 percent discharge for 10,000 cycles—allowing for longevity of three decades or more.

"If you're supplementing wind or solar, you're going through a complete cycle on a daily basis," Bradshaw says. "In other words, a long cycle life remains key."

While we still have significant work to do, electric cooperatives continue to invest in research to make battery technology work for our needs today and in the future.

This is the 18th in a series produced by the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives. See the entire series at carolinacountry.com

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Community partnerships, brighter futures

Board members, managers and key staff of North Carolina's electric cooperatives in early April focused on how cooperatives have contributed to their communities as well as on new initiatives for the progress of those communities. More than 400 cooperative representatives attended the annual meeting of their statewide organizations in Raleigh.

Referring to how electric cooperatives introduce technological options to their consumer-members, CEO Joe Brannan of the North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation told the co-op delegates, "You are the leaders in this state when it comes to engaging your members and your communities."

The meeting's theme of "Community Partnerships for a Brighter Future" resounded in presentations on education, economic development, state government policy, and the opportunities for and achievements of young citizens.

Statewide leaders elected

The following were elected to 2014–2015 board leadership positions in the cooperatives' statewide organizations.

NCEMC (power supply): President Mitchell L. Keel, Four County EMC; Vice President Mark A. Suggs, Pitt & Greene EMC; Secretary-Treasurer Dale F. Lambert, Randolph EMC.

NCAEC (co-op services): President Jeffrey B. Joines, Blue Ridge Electric; Vice President Carl W. Kornegay, Tri-County EMC; Secretary-Treasurer Susan E. Flythe, Cape Hatteras Electric.

—Photos by Randy Berger

Starting top left and going counterclockwise: *Founding president Tony Habit explained how the NC New Schools program has placed North Carolina first in the nation in blending late high school and early college educational experiences for students.*

Six-term State Rep. David Lewis, Republican of Harnett County, briefed the meeting on tax reform and other achievements and plans at the General Assembly.

More than 400 people attended the statewide annual meeting of electric cooperatives.

A panel of co-op leaders described various community projects their cooperatives are pursuing. They were (from left) Wake EMC board member Suzy Morgan, Piedmont EMC board member Bill Barber, and Tideland EMC general manager Paul Spruill.

Morgan Dunn of Sampson County received the Gwyn B. Price Memorial Scholarship.

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The house that Mom and Dad built

by Willie Breeze

My parents, William H. and Mary Elizabeth Foust Breeze.

I grew up on a small farm in Orange County west of Hillsborough. My family was poor, but I never knew that because we were so happy. We had clean clothes and never were hungry.

My father was a Marine who fought during World War II while Mom was home with my oldest sister. My mother believed in getting all the education available to her, which at the time meant up to the eighth grade, which she completed. She believed if others could accomplish something, she could, too, and she passed that character to us, her children.

From somewhere, Mom acquired a dictionary. This was not an ordinary dictionary. It was about 12 inches thick and in addition to having meanings of words, it had lots of information about the U.S. We made good use of this book.

Our house was once a community schoolhouse. My parents purchased the building and renovated it to make it our home. The attic was turned into two bedrooms big enough for Mom and Dad and us five children. It was an old building and needed many repairs over the years.

During the mid-1960s, my mother had the idea to write a letter to Washington, D.C. She looked through the huge dictionary and found an address. The letter said, "My house is very old. It was once a school building, but now it has leaks. During the winter, it is very difficult to keep my children warm. I know there must be something you can do to help us."

In a few weeks, an expensive black car arrived at our house. When Mom saw the car and the white people getting out of it, she felt somewhat fearful because she did not know what would happen next, and Dad was at work at White's Furniture Company. But Mom went out to meet the people. They told her they were from Washington and had received her letter and wanted to help. They told her about an opportunity for us to get an FHA loan (Federal Housing Administration). When my father found out about the possibility of a loan, he was concerned, because he believed his salary could not afford it. But they decided to move forward. We were able to get a three-bedroom house built on our property. We were so proud. My mother testified at church about the Lord's blessing to us, so people in our church applied and received FHA loans and built houses. Some of these families still live in those houses today.

The young man who bought the house that Mom and Dad built has been kind enough to allow me to visit. He is a teacher and builder of furniture which befits this home, because it means that growth continues there.

The daughter of William and Mary Breeze, Willie Breeze earned her master's degree at N.C. Central University, has retired from the U.S. Army and the Harrisburg, Pa., school system, and lives in Orange County. She is a member of Piedmont EMC.

The top photo shows the old schoolhouse after renovations. The other is the one they built for us later.

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The letter said, "My house is very old. It was once a school building, but now it has leaks. During the winter, it is very difficult to keep my children warm. I know there must be something you can do to help us."

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THE BUZZ ON OUR BEES

By Julie Bates

Why do people willingly consort with creatures known for their stinging ability? Is it the lure of liquid gold honey or is there some mysterious siren song emitted for us when we hear the hum of an active hive? When my husband first brought up the subject of keeping bees, I thought he was insane. Why keep a box of potentially threatening insects nearby? Devious man that he is, he got our teenaged son interested, so I was outvoted.

As the weather warmed, we were invited to a hive opening. I arrived outfitted in the beekeeping equivalent of a hazmat suit, full veil, hat, long sleeves, long pants and gloves. I armored myself mentally as well and approached the ominous collection of white boxes expecting Bee-maggedon. Going through my mind were scenes from horror movies I should not have watched as an adolescent: "The Swarm" and "The Killer Bees." But everyone else walked up in shorts, shirt sleeves and sneakers.

The keeper lifted the lid off the box and began talking in a low, gentle tone. Utilizing a smoker (a device resembling a tin watering can with a bellows), he streamed smoke over the bees to settle them. As he began lifting frames out, curiosity conquered my cowardice and I moved forward. Lifting out frames (where bees store their honey and lay eggs), the keeper showed neatly organized honeycombs that held worker bee larvae as well as drones (males) and a few queen cells. Bees crawling on the frames seemed completely uninterested in humans.

The bee enthusiasts picked up frame after frame while casually chatting in bee speak, dropping such words as propolis (bee glue) and brood (baby bees). The buzzing around me reached a crescendo of lawnmower proportions. Someone looked at me and said, "You're blocking the door." Confused, I stared at him. Then my husband moved me aside and pointed to the hive entrance that I was standing in front of. Behind me and heading for the "door" was a traffic jam worthy of the L.A. Freeway with the exception that it consisted of bees instead of cars. Once the stupid human (me) moved, they rushed in with their loads of pollen and nectar. I soon realized that if I stayed out of their way, I was of no interest to them.

Our nuke (beginner hive) came home about a month later. Despite my reservations, I found that bees and I get along just fine. They don't get up until sun hits the hive (10 a.m. for us). This is just when I head inside. They spend their days seeking things to pollinate and raising brood. Happily for my son they like clover, so he gets a pass on mowing certain areas of the lawn. Our family has bonded over the hive. No one, not even Storm the overly curious dog, has been stung.

WHAT HAPPENS IN A HIVE?

Bees gather at a hive's entrance then deposit their load of pollen or nectar inside. Everyone has a job, whether it is caring for the young, cleaning the hive, gathering food or guarding the door. The young are raised by females (worker bees) assigned nanny duty. The queen lays eggs to keep the community going. Drones—males whose only job is to

Photos by Bill Bates

impregnate the queen—are pushed out when the weather turns cold. Food and shelter are for those who have worked to propagate and preserve the hive. (Mulling over this information, I considered that, perhaps in some instances, bees are smarter than humans.)

Honeybees have been documented ranging as far as 7.44 miles to forage, so a neighborhood hive can have a profound effect on plants within their area. They also can reduce the incidence of insect stings by filling a niche that would otherwise be taken by more aggressive insects such as wasps or hornets (a kind of wasp).

BRING BACK THE BEES

In North Carolina beekeeping is a hobby that is rapidly growing in popularity among people who like the idea of being more self-sufficient. Honeybees are the most important pollinator for crops grown in North Carolina, including strawberries, melons, peaches, blueberries, cotton, soybeans and peanuts. Since the 1980s, wild honeybee populations have been almost completely destroyed by the proliferation of exotic mites, pesticides and hive beetles. The effect has been amplified by the overuse of pesticides. According to Dr. John Ambrose, alumni distinguished undergraduate professor emeritus at N.C. State University, there are less than half the honeybees in the U.S. than what existed 20 years ago.

In 1982, NC State and the N.C. Department of Agriculture created the North Carolina Master Beekeeper Program. It is the largest program of its kind in the U.S, with more than 2,800 members.

The North Carolina Zoo has a honeybee exhibit that features an observation hive covered with glass where you can watch bees at work, try to find the queen (hint: she has a white paint spot) and learn to identify brood, nectar and honey. Children like the playhouse modeled after an old fashioned bee skep (hive made of grass or straw).

Julie Bates and her family live in Asheboro and are members of Randolph EMC.

Despite my reservations, I found that bees and I get along just fine.

TIPS

Even if you don't want your own hive, you can take steps to help preserve honeybees. Dr. Ambrose of NC State, offers these tips.

- **Be careful with use of pesticides.** Any pesticide toxic to bees has a warning label. Look at the product before using it. Don't spray until late afternoon, when honeybees have returned to their hives. Most pesticides break down quickly. By next day, most of the toxicity has broken down.
- **Buy local honey.** Although unproven, local honey has been said to help with allergies. Honey is sweeter than sugar. Local honey is the least processed sweetener available. Even so, we import almost as much honey as we produce. Honey from overseas, especially from China, may be adulterated with corn syrup and mislabeled.

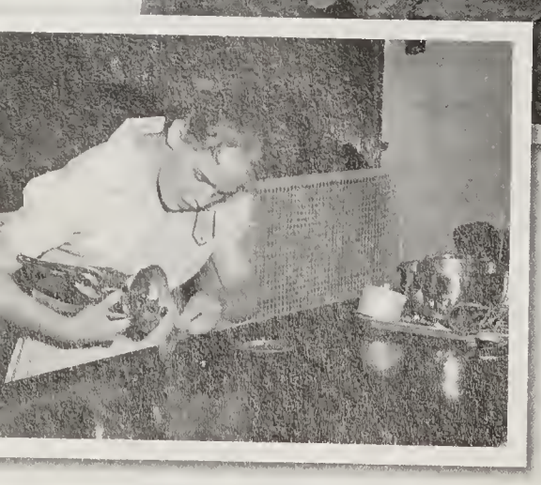
TO LEARN MORE

- **The N.C. Beekeepers Association** website includes contact information for regional directors and chapters. ncbeekeepers.org
- **NC State University Apiculture Program** website has information about bee biology and research, as well as a link to Cooperative Extension information about beekeeping and more. http://entomology.ncsu.edu/apiculture
- **Your county Cooperative Extension** office.

Power Up!

Cooperative Extension helped rural families learn about electricity and how to use it

by Carole Howell



While most of us take our lights and appliances for granted, our grandparents remember kerosene lamps, wood-burning cookstoves and pumping water from the well morning and evening.

"The bathroom was about 50 yards from the house because you didn't want it real close," recalled Shirley Collier in her 1985 interview for the Southern Oral History Program at the University of North Carolina. "We had no running water, but had a hand pump outside the kitchen. And we carried everything from the pump to the kitchen, to the barns, whatever we used water for we had to carry it."

Collier said that her family used only wood for cooking and heat. "Our only means of heating was the fireplace in the kitchen and in the living room and a back bedroom," she said. "We had oil lamps and you had to wash the shades every day."

Electrical service came to Collier's family farm near Fayetteville in 1945, but the first significant spark for rural electrification was in April 1935 with the establishment of the North Carolina Rural Electrification Authority (NCREA). It cleared the way for carrying electricity into the state's rural areas.

In 1935, only a little more than three percent of North Carolina farms enjoyed the advantages of electricity. Some areas rejected the change, and farmers went out by night and filled in the postholes dug the day before. In the early years, some even referred to the member-owned electric cooperatives as communist organizations. Other farmers, excited about the prospect of electricity, began meeting at night to apply to the REA for the federally appropriated funds to build lines, and worked to help clear the right-of-way and pull power lines by mule.

Rural electrification, deservedly, has been cited as one of the most significant turning points for modernizing North Carolina's farms. Cooperative Extension, with its dedication to farmers and their families, helped flip the switch.

Top left: *This feed mixer was economically constructed with plans provided to farmers by the U.S. Rural Electrification Administration. (LEARN NC, UNC School of Education)*

Center left: *A 4-H club member hoeing in her field on the Tew family farm. (NC State University)*

Bottom left: *A 4-H member in the 1960s fixes a coffee percolator as part of an electricity demonstration. (NC State University)*

The REA brought the juice, Cooperative Extension brought the proof

Electrification advocates knew that the agricultural community would be critical to their success. The federal Rural Electrification Administration was creating fact sheets and posters about the promises of electricity, but getting the message out to farmers was another task altogether. The REA called on county Extension offices nationwide to help spread the word about how electric machines and appliances could reduce labor, cut costs and increase productivity on the farm. County agents set up demonstrations of electric feed grinders, brooders and milk coolers, and slowly farmers began to power up.

"There are no reasons why eventually practically every farm and rural community in North Carolina should not have electric power with all its conveniences," wrote David S. Weaver, professor and first head of the Department of Agricultural Engineering at State College (NCSU), in 1945. Weaver went on to become director of North Carolina's Agricultural Extension Service, where he was committed to relieving drudgery on the farm. A large part of his career included pioneering rural electrification.

Franklin Roosevelt's REA was set up to make loans to build electricity distribution systems, and cooperatively owned enterprises were given priority. The Cooperative Extension Service in North Carolina, created in part to take the latest agriculture research and technology to farmers, worked to organize cooperatives and to show farmers and families how to make the best use of this new resource. County agents taught farmers how to install lights in their hen houses to increase egg production.

"I think one of the most interesting things that happened in the early days

An early Extension director, David S. Weaver was an agricultural engineering professor at N.C. State who helped farm communities form electric cooperatives. (N.C. State University)

of these programs are the meetings that were held in each county, most oft'times in the county seat, by REA and home economists and others on the use of electric service in the home; how to cook with it, how to cool with it, how to light with it," said Gwyn Brantley Price, Ashe County school principal and dairy farmer. Price forwarded the push for rural electrification in North Carolina and became the head of the North Carolina REA in 1941.

For some rural families, electric water pumps meant the first indoor bathrooms. Just imagine the wonder of having lights after dark, hot water and all the conveniences and work-saving appliances that came soon after the switch was finally flipped. By 1950, most rural homes had power thanks to rural electrification, but it took until 1974 to reach 97 percent of them.

Carole Howell is a freelance writer farming in Lincoln County. She is a member of Rutherford EMC. See her work at walkerbranchwrites.com

Next month: How North Carolina's Cooperative Extension works today.

Learn more about the history of North Carolina Cooperative Extension: ces.ncsu.edu/history

See a slide show of historical photos showing Cooperative Extension at work in North Carolina: carolinacountry.com

"It's a damn lie."

Gwyn Brantley Price, Ashe County school principal and dairy farmer, became chairman of the North Carolina Rural Electrification Authority in 1941, when only a fourth of the state's farms had electricity. In an interview for the Southern Oral History Program, he recounted a humorous story from the early days of rural electrification:

One day when I was in the county agent's office signing some papers as chairman of the old Triple A committee, a couple of men came in from Lenoir to see the county agent, a Mr. Messick, and Mr. Max Wilson, attorney for Caldwell Mutual. [Caldwell Mutual would later become Blue Ridge EMC.] Mr. Messick introduced himself and he said, "Mr. Price, if you want electricity, all you got to do is say so. We got it in Caldwell County and we're gonna get it in Watauga County."

It was 1937. Mr. Messick had an uncle he called Uncle Finley. He would go out to the fillin' station and sit in a chair when the weather was good and watch the people go and come.

One day he saw the engineers staking the line across the field, and Uncle Finley asked, "What'cha doing out there?" "We're digging holes for poles for an electric line," explained Mr. Messick, to which Finley replied, "Never be. The farmers'll have to go back and fill the holes up, and they'll have to cut the poles down and use them for stovewood."

Mr. Messick came by one day after the lines were strung, and he said, "Now, Uncle Finley, you see that little bulb right in front of the fillin' station? Well, exactly at 11 o'clock, they're gonna turn a switch and that little bulb's gonna turn white," to which Uncle Finley replied, "It'll never do it." When the time came, all Uncle Finley could say was, "It's a damn lie. It's a damn lie."

STORM WATCH

How to prepare your family and property for severe weather

OUTSIDE

1. Trim dead or weak branches from surrounding trees. Do not leave them for curbside pickup during a storm watch.

2. Moor boat securely, store it upside down against a wall or move it to a safer place. Anchor a boat trailer with strong rope.

3. Protect your windows with custom-fit shutters or ⅝-inch plywood. Check with your local building inspector.

4. Keep roof drains clear.

5. If you live in a flood-prone area, elevate or move objects to higher ground.

6. Bring indoors objects that may be blown or swept away, such as lawn furniture, trash cans, children's toys, garden equipment, clotheslines and hanging plants.

7. Lower water level in pool 6 inches. Add extra chlorine. Turn off electricity to pool equipment and wrap up any exposed filter pumps with a waterproof covering.

8. Plan how to take care of your pets. Leave them with a friend. If you must evacuate, it is best to take your pets with you, but most shelters will not allow them. Large animals in barns should have plenty of food and water.

9. If a storm is pending, fuel your vehicle.

10. Keep a smaller Disaster Supplies Kit (see next page) in the trunk of each car.

11. Keep sliding glass doors wedged shut in high wind.

12. If you use a portable generator, make sure you know what loads it can handle, including start-up wattage. If you connect the generator to household circuit, you must have a double-pole, double-throw transfer switch installed between the generator and outside power, or the "backfeed" could seriously harm or kill utility line workers.

13. Take down outdoor antennas, after unplugging televisions.

RESOURCE INFORMATION

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
500 C Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20472
Phone: (800) 621-3362
fema.gov

American Red Cross
2025 E Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006
Phone: (800) RED CROSS,
(800) 733-2767
redcross.org

INSIDE

14. Store valuables in a waterproof container at the highest point in your home. Include an extra set of keys.

15. Make two photocopies of vital documents and keep the originals in a safe deposit box. Keep one copy in a safe place in the house, and give the second copy to someone out-of-town. Vital documents include birth and marriage certificates, tax records, credit card numbers, financial records, wills and trusts.

16. Install smoke alarms on each level of your home, especially near bedrooms. Use the test button to test them once a month. Replace batteries at least once a year.

17. If a family member relies on life-support equipment, make sure your electric cooperative knows ahead of time.

18. Fill bathtubs, sinks, and jugs with clean water in case water becomes contaminated.

19. Pick a "safe" room in the house, usually a first-floor interior hallway, room or closet without windows.

20. Plan home escape routes. Find two ways out of each room.

21. Check and protect objects that could cause harm during a bad storm: bookshelf, hanging pictures, gas appliances, chemicals.

22. Write and videotape an inventory of your home, garage, and surrounding property. Include information such as serial numbers, make and model numbers, physical descriptions, and price of purchases (receipts, if possible). Store a copy somewhere away from home, such as in a safe deposit box.

23. Keep a portable, battery-operated radio or television and extra batteries.

24. Post emergency telephone numbers.

25. Show adult family members where your fire extinguishers are and how they work.

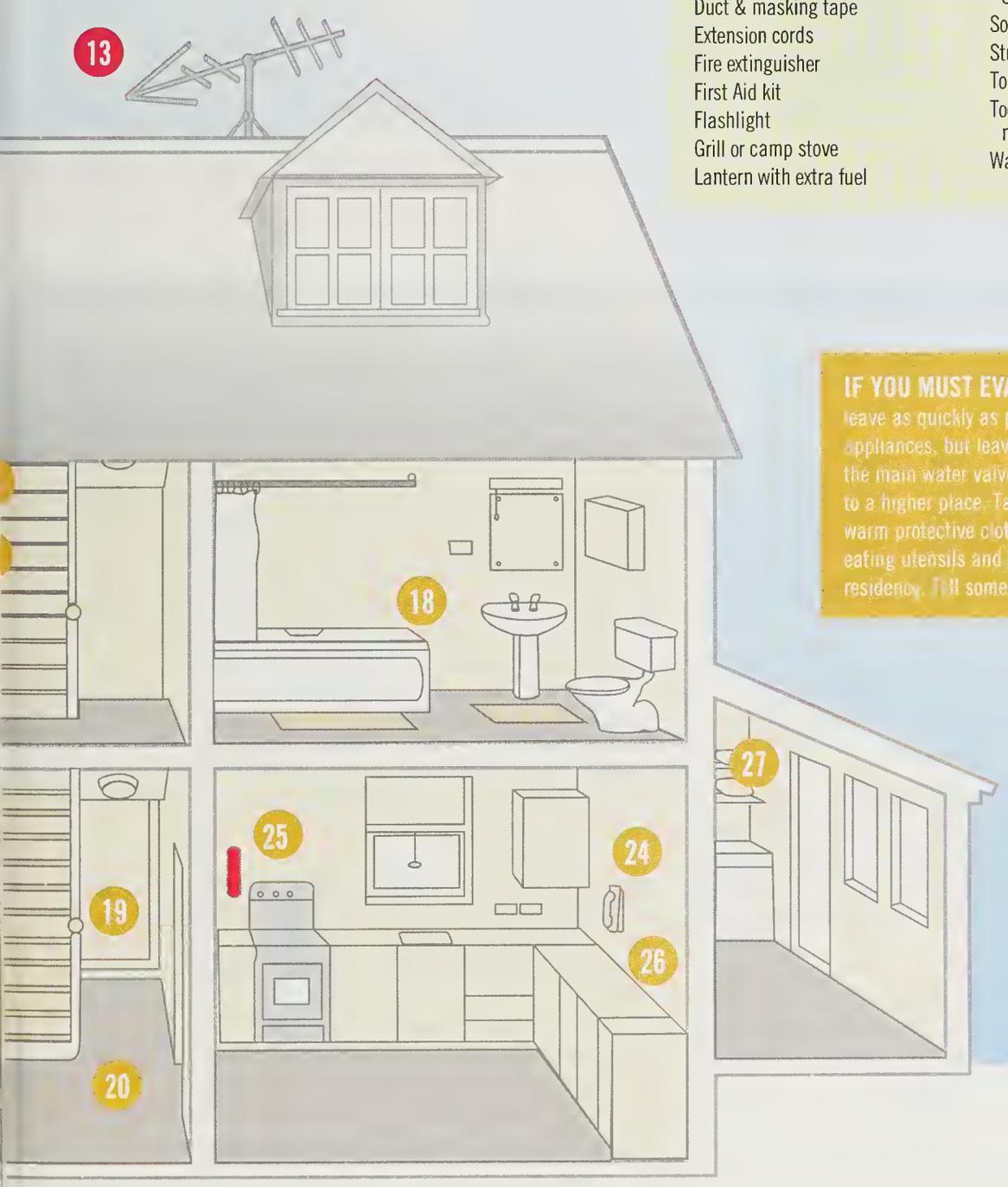
26. Make a plan for family members to reunite if separated (if children are at school and adults are at work). Designate an out-of-state relative or friend as a contact person and make sure everybody in the family knows how to reach the person.

27. Teach all responsible family members how and when to turn off the water, gas, and electricity at the main switches or valves. Keep a wrench near gas and water shut-off valves. Turn off utilities only if you suspect a leak or damaged lines, or if you are instructed to do so by authorities.

A DISASTER SUPPLY KIT (recommended by the American Red Cross)

Have enough disaster supplies for 2 weeks ready. Keep items in airtight plastic bags. Replace stored food and water every six months. Rethink your kit and family needs at least once a year. (Replace batteries, update clothes, etc.) Ask your physician or pharmacist about storing prescription medications.

- Emergency food & drinking water
- At least one change of clothes
- Baby food, diapers & formula
- Batteries
- Bleach (without lemon or additives)
- Books, magazines, cards & games
- Butane lighters
- Cash & credit cards
- Camera & film
- Car keys
- Charcoal & lighter fluid
- Clock (non-electric)
- Cooler (with ice)
- Duct & masking tape
- Extension cords
- Fire extinguisher
- First Aid kit
- Flashlight
- Grill or camp stove
- Lantern with extra fuel
- Heavy plastic (for roof if damaged)
- Manual can opener
- Matches
- Medicines, glasses or contact lens supplies
- Mosquito repellent
- Personal identification
- Pet food
- Phone numbers of places you could go.
- Plastic trash bags
- Radio (battery-operated) or TV
- Rope (100 ft.)
- Sleeping bags, pillows & blankets
- Soap & shampoo
- Sturdy shoes
- Toilet paper & towelettes
- Tool kit including hammer, crowbar, nails, saw, gloves, etc.
- Water purification tablets



IF YOU MUST EVACUATE

Leave as quickly as possible. Unplug your appliances, but leave on your refrigerator. Turn off the main water valve. If time allows, move furniture to a higher place. Take sleeping bags, blankets, warm protective clothing, emergency supplies, eating utensils and identification showing proof of residency. Tell somebody where you are going.

CAROLINA COUNTRY

scenes

Photo of the month

Good morning

Early morning sunrise coming through the living room window brightens the day for Abigail G. Pilkenton, 4 years old.

Kristi Pilkenton, State Road, Surry-Yadkin EMC

The Photo of the Month comes from those that scored an honorable mention from the judges in our 2014 photo contest ("Carolina Country Scenes," February 2014). See even more at the Photo of the Week on our website carolinacountry.com.

ADVERTISEMENT

Clogged, Backed—up Septic System...Can anything Restore It?

DEAR DARRYL: My home is about 10 years old, and so is my septic system. I have always taken pride in keeping my home and property in top shape. In fact, my neighbors and I are always kidding each other about who keeps their home and yard nicest. Lately, however, I have had a horrible smell in my yard, and also in one of my bathrooms, coming from the shower drain. My grass is muddy and all the drains in my home are very slow.

My wife is on my back to make the bathroom stop smelling and as you can imagine, my neighbors are having a field day, kidding me about the mud pit and sewage stench in my yard. It's humiliating. I called a plumber buddy of mine, who recommended pumping (and maybe even replacing) my septic system. But at the potential cost of thousands of dollars, I hate to explore that option.

I tried the store bought, so called, Septic treatments out there, and they did Nothing to clear up my problem. Is there anything on the market I can pour or flush into my system that will restore it to normal, and keep it maintained?

Clogged and Smelly – Cary, NC

DEAR CLOGGED AND SMELLY: As a reader of my column, I am sure you are aware that I have a great deal of experience in this particular field. You will be glad to know that there IS a septic solution that will solve your back-up and effectively restore your entire system from interior piping throughout the septic system and even unclog the drain field as well. **SeptiCleanse® Shock and Maintenance Programs** deliver your system the fast active bacteria and enzymes needed to liquefy solid waste and free the clogs causing your back-up.

This fast-acting bacteria multiplies within minutes of application and is specifically designed to withstand many of today's anti-bacterial cleaners, soaps and detergents. It comes in dissolvable plastic packs, that you just flush down your toilets. It's so cool. Plus, they actually Guarantee that it restores ANY system, no matter how bad the problem is.

SeptiCleanse® Shock and Maintenance Programs are designed to work on any septic system regardless of design or age. From modern day systems to sand mounds, and systems installed generations ago, I have personally seen SeptiCleanse unclog and restore these systems in a matter of weeks. I highly recommend that you try it before spending any money on repairs. SeptiCleanse products are available online at **www.septicleanse.com** or you can order or learn more by calling **toll free at 1-888-899-8345.** If you use the promo code **"DARNC7"**, you can get a free shock treatment, added to your order, which normally costs $169. So, make sure you use that code when you call or buy online.

CONNECTION

PIEDMONT ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION MEMBER NEWSLETTER JUNE 2014

LIGHTING UP THE COMMUNITY

Piedmont Electric would like to thank all of the members who attended the Annual Meeting of the Members on Friday, April 11, 2014. This year we welcomed more than 550 attendees, including 381 registered members of Piedmont Electric Membership Corporation.

This year's theme, "Lighting up the Community," demonstrates our commitment to providing safe, reliable and affordable electricity to our members, as well as being a strong member of the communities we serve. The audio visual presentation focused on this commitment, detailing Piedmont's many programs and events designed to support our members and the communities in which they live.

Piedmont Electric was also proud to honor our linemen and other employees with two music videos, "Members Call Me" and "You Know the Kind." Members in attendance praised both videos, which were especially moving in light of the hard work these brave men and women did during the recent ice storms.

President and CEO Randy Brecheisen presented the current state of the cooperative ending his report by saying: "Our commitment to the community is just one example of the strength of the cooperative advantage. When we work together, we stand strong." Much of the information presented can be found in this year's annual report, which was included with the April issue of *Carolina Country*.

While the annual meeting is a time for fun and entertainment, (Al Batton and the Bluegrass Reunion put on quite a show), it is primarily a business meeting. During the business session of the meeting our members re-elected David Poythress of District 1, Randy Kinley of District 2, Paul Bailey of District 5 and Richal Vanhook, At-Large to their positions on the Board of Directors.

We would like to once again thank all of the members who were able to attend, and encourage all of our members to join us next year to participate in one of the most important parts of your cooperative membership, the election of your Board of Directors.

BRIGHT IDEAS

BRIGHT IDEAS EARLY BIRD REMINDER

Piedmont Electric has awarded more than $326,000 in Bright Ideas Grants to local teachers since 1994. This year, North Carolina's electric cooperatives allocated more than $660,000 in Bright Ideas grant funding to award educators for innovative classroom projects for the 2013–2014 school year.

Teachers, principals and school counselors can apply for grants of up to $1,500. To learn more about the program and start an online application, visit **www.NCBrightIdeas.com.**

The deadline to submit applications for the 2014–2015 school year is September 19, 2014. Applicants who submit their application by the early-bird deadline on August 15 will be entered in a drawing to win one of five $100 Visa gift cards.

LOAD CONTROL

PIEDMONT ELECTRIC NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Piedmont Electric's load control program is an easy and effective way to become an active member of your cooperative. Our summer Load Control incentives help reduce energy demand on "peak days" through the use of load control switches.

SEE LOAD CONTROL PAGE 27

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Piedmont Electric's primary focus is providing safe, reliable and affordable energy to our members, while also keeping you informed on changing laws that affect your power bills.

Effective July 1, 2014, as part of a North Carolina state tax law enacted in July 2013, changes will be coming to how your cooperative collects state taxes. The current law requires the cooperative to collect a 3.22% gross receipts tax which is embedded in our electric service rates. Plus the cooperative member also pays a 3% sales tax. The combination of these two taxes amounts to an effective tax rate of 6.32%.

Under the new tax law, Piedmont Electric will reduce our base rates to remove the gross receipts tax currently collected in the rates and must change the electricity sales tax to 7%. Unfortunately, this means that your total bill after taxes will increase. The net effect of these tax changes is an increase of 0.68% to the consumer.

Piedmont Electric keeps you informed on how changing laws affect your power bills.

R.G. Brecheisen
President & CEO of Piedmont Electric

For an electric bill of $100, the net increase in your bill attributed to the tax law change will be 68 cents. Piedmont Electric will continue to be responsible for collecting and remitting the sales tax to the North Carolina Department of Revenue.

Our new rate schedules reflecting this new tax law can be found on our website at **pemc.coop/about-my-co-op/rate-schedules** or by searching for "rate schedules" in the search box located on the website.

This new tax legislation also eliminates the "state tax holiday" on buying efficient Energy Star-labeled appliances effective in 2014.

If you have any questions regarding this new tax law's impact on your electric bill, please contact us at 800.222.3107 or refer to the North Carolina Department of Revenue's website at **www.dornc.com**.

CO-OP CONNECTIONS® CARD

Piedmont Electric Members have saved a total of
$19,739.20
in Rx purchases since the program launch in October 2012!

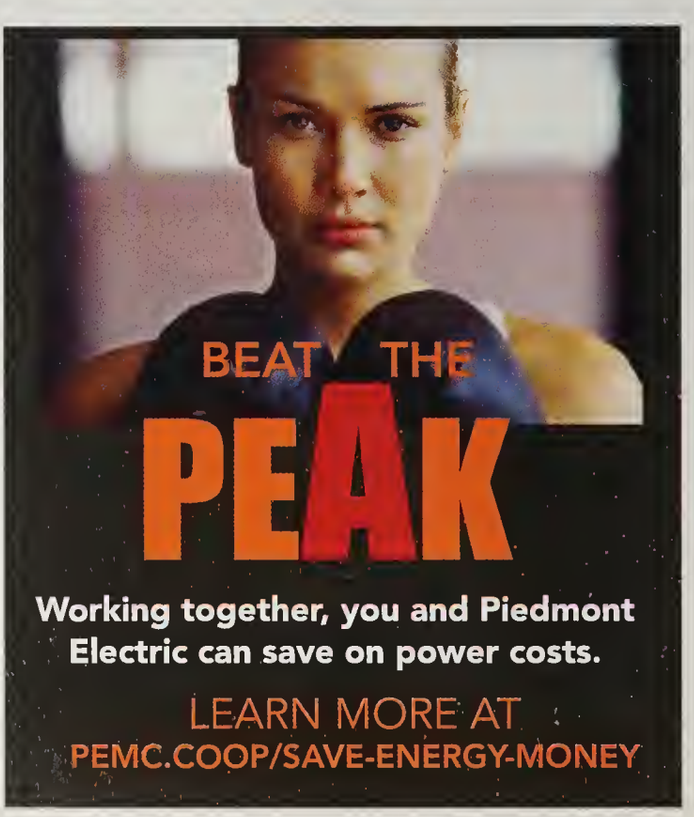
Use your card this Summer. Show it and save. It's that easy!

Visit **www.connections.coop/pemc** for discount details.

SAVE $7

CAROWINDS
National

on admission with an exclusive deal from Touchstone Energy Cooperatives. Get a single day admission for $39.99 + processing fee. Redeem online.



LOAD CONTROL

FROM PAGE 25

Our peak days are the few days of the year when the cooperative as a whole uses the most electricity. They usually occur on the hottest days of the year when member's are using their HVAC units at full power. Peak days are important to the cooperative, as they play a role in determining future prices Piedmont Electric will pay for electricity.

When we forecast very hot afternoons (usually between 1–7pm during the summer) installed load control switches will activate and enrolled members air conditioning units and electric water heaters will cycle down. This reduces our energy load and can help everyone save money on their energy bills.

Not only can load control help you save money, but it pays you too.

MONTHLY CREDITS

The amount of monthly credit per appliance controlled is:

Water Heater
$1.00 monthly

Air Conditioner*

$2.50 (Standard LC), 1/3 CYCLE OFF
$5.00 (LC+), 2/3 CYCLE OFF
$7.50 (Total LC), TOTAL OFF

*AC credit applied June, July, August and September only.

Receive a FREE electric water heater wrap upon installation of your Load Control switch.

Join the over 6,000 members already enrolled in the Load Control program. Together we can "Beat the Peak" and lower wholesale power costs and save money for all cooperative members.

BY THE NUMBERS

6,063 MEMBERS ▲ 2 MEMBERS
are participating in the A/C Load Control Program

4,617 MEMBERS
are participating in the Electric Water Heater Load Control Program

924 MEMBERS ▲ 18 MEMBERS
are participating in the FlexPay Program

3 MEMBERS ▲ 1 MEMBER
have turned in receipts for 5 LED bulbs, representing a total of 2,930 kWhs saved toward our Senate Bill 3 Mandate

43 MEMBERS
received solar water heater rebates

927 MEMBERS
purchased electric water heater wrap kits

607 RESIDENTIAL MEMBERS
have signed up for Time-of-Day Rates

1,014 VISITS ▲ 2 VISITS
made to TogetherWeSave.com, where you can learn more about the power of your electric cooperative membership.

601 MEMBERS
have signed up to participate in the "Beat the Peak" program

1,381 MEMBERS
are participating in Project Helping Hand

2,336 MEMBERS ▲ 16 MEMBERS
have signed up for the use-monitoring portion of www.MyUsage.com

SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM WINNERS

Tyler Waady and Ty'naisha Torain earn Sports Camp scholarships.

Basketball Camp Winners

Piedmont EMC is awarding three local students with Touchstone Energy Sports Camp scholarships to summer basketball camps at two of the state's largest college campuses.

Tyler Woody, a student at Pathways Elementary School in Hillsborough, will attend the Roy Williams Basketball Camp.

Meredith Nicole Harris (not pictured), a student at the Roxboro Community School and Ty'naisha Torain, a student at Pathways Elementary in Hillsborough will both attend the N.C. State Women's Basketball Camp.

Rural Electric Cooperatives Youth Tour Washington, D.C., Winner

Collin Thomas Winstead (not pictured), a rising junior from Roxboro Community School, will attend the Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., from June 12–19, where he will see some of our nation's most historic sites.

THIS MONTH'S RIGHT-OF-WAY ACTIVITY

PERSON COUNTY

- Helena-Mariah Road
- Moore's Mill Road
- Chambers Loop Road
- Weldon Painter Road
- Harris Mill Road
- Bowen Road

(and surrounding areas)

Locations are SUBJECT TO CHANGE due to uncontrollable circumstances.

ONE PLACE. ONE LOGIN. EVERYTHING YOU NEED.

What is SmartHub?

SmartHub is an online portal that lets you manage all aspects of your Piedmont Electric account. All of your information is centralized in one place, with only one login to remember.

What can I use it for?

SmartHub lets you view or pay your monthly electric bill, as well as providing much more information and convenience.

- Pay your bill
- Review past payments
- Receive bill reminders
- View daily and monthly electric use
- Update your account or contact information

Is it like My Usage?

My Usage is part of Smart Hub, with even more advanced tools like:

- Usage Explorer tool that gives you a detailed look at your past and current usage, all in one place.
- Bill Comparison tool, which lets you compare two bills worth of usage history side by side.
- Average Usage tool that shows you what your typical or average usage is for your selected time period.

Will it work on my phone?

Yes! SmartHub can be used on a computer website and on both iOS or Android mobile devices.

You will also be able to access your account from anywhere on the Piedmont Electric web site by hovering over "Manage My Account" or by clicking anywhere you see the SmartHub Logo.

Learn more and register for SmartHub at pemc.smarthub.coop. Existing e-bill users will not have to update their username and password.

PIEDMONT ELECTRIC CONNECTION

Published monthly for the members of Piedmont Electric Membership Corp.

2500 NC Highway 86 South
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Hillsbaraugh, NC 27278

R.G. Brecheisen
President and CEO

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Caswell County 336.421.1296
Roxbara 336.599.0151
Elsewhere in North Carolina 800.222.3107

IF YOUR POWER GOES OUT, CALL US...

800.449.2667

Our automated outage reporting system uses your phone number to determine your service location. That's why it's important to update the number connected to your account. If your number has changed, or if you no longer have a land line, let us know by completing the form that comes in your monthly billing statement or calling 800.222.3107.

To report an outage 24 hours a day
800.449.2667*

To pay account and access account information by phone 24 hours a day
877.999.3394*

*Voice instructions will direct you through the system.

Call 811 BEFORE you dig

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

WHERE IN CAROLINA COUNTRY IS THIS?

This is a Carolina Country scene in Touchstone Energy territory. If you know where it is, send your answer by June 9 with your name, address and the name of your electric cooperative.

Online: carolinacountry.com

By e-mail: where@carolinacountry.com

Or by mail: Where in Carolina Country?
P.O. Box 27306
Raleigh, NC 27611

Multiple entries from the same person will be disqualified.

The winner, chosen at random and announced in our July issue, will receive $25. To see the answer before you get your July magazine, go to "Where Is This?" on our website carolinacountry.com.

May winner

The picture in the May magazine, by Renee Gannon, shows the clock on the wall of the Mount Airy Museum of Regional History in Surry County. Nearly 100 of you submitted correct answers. Sandy Long of Jefferson said she saw the clock recently while she and her daughter strolled through Mount Airy before the Tommy Jarrell Festival. The winning entry, chosen at random from all correct submissions, was from Lisa Singleton of Mount Airy, a member of Surry-Yadkin EMC.

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The whale at Wade's Shore

My husband and I are of Shackleford Banks heritage and raised our children on Harkers Island. Early one summer in the 1970s, my husband got word that a whale had come ashore on the ocean side of Shackleford Banks. He was anxious to take our son, Jon, who was 6 or 8 at the time, over to see the whale. It had come ashore near the west end of Shackleford near Beaufort Inlet, known by the old-timers as Wade's Shore.

They took off through West Bay on the north side of Harkers Island, under the draw bridge, through the Middle Marsh and finally to Wade's Shore. They walked through winding paths of dense maritime forest, where it was spooky, because many trees made it a shadowy place, and there were wild boars, horses, sheep and raccoons. After walking with salty sand sticking to their feet and legs, plus green or yellow-head flies, ticks and mosquitoes, they reached the ocean side and the sun again.

Some island men were already there. Jon said the whale was as high as a two-story house, 40 to 60 feet long. He felt the skin, checked out the eyes, looked inside the mouth. The men determined that it was a right whale that had probably gotten sick and beached itself. Scientists arrived to cut out sections of the animal that could determine what caused it to come ashore. They stayed there with the island men and the scientists, walking from one end of the animal to the other.

I am so glad that my husband realized that it would be an experience our son could relate to his own children.

Ms. Leslie R. Rose, Harkers Island, Carteret-Craven Electric

Learning from the beach

My mother took me to the beach for the first time in 1978 when I was 3. We drove from Wilson to the Johnny Mercer pier in Atlantic Beach. She tells me that the closer we walked to the surf the more uncomfortable I became. When she asked me what I thought of the beach, I covered my ears as I replied, "It's too loud! Can you turn it down?" I spent the rest of our outing quietly playing with shells in the sand while sitting under an improvised shelter Mom had made by draping a beach towel over a folded lounge chair.

Despite this dubious start to the beach-going experience, I came to love the beach. Mom took my younger brother and me to most of the North Carolina beaches, with Atlantic Beach and Emerald Isle being our most frequent destinations. One of our favorite times to go was in the dead of winter, when solitude enhanced the sparse beauty of the shoreline.

Now my parents live in Mebane, and I live in Charlotte with my husband and two children. Recently we joined my parents and my brother with his two children at Fort Macon. Many people in my area head to Myrtle Beach for vacation, but my family remains loyal to the beaches that shaped so much of my childhood.

Jennifer Stephenson, Indian Trail, Union Power Cooperative

Learning to cope

I was born in an old mill town in Fries, Virginia. Look at this picture from 72 years ago of my dad holding my little sister. The old house did not have any doors—those are old navy blankets over the door. You could look through cracks in floors and see the hogs under the house. The porch had hand rails and a half roof. There were 12 kids plus Mom and Dad living there. We farmed 15 acres to stay alive. My dad had a bad heart, and I used to pray for God to keep me from going through the same things, but I have had heart surgery seven times. My wife said my health was killing her, so she left with another man. My little dog and I live by ourselves. I preached for 31 years.

Rev. Joseph Moore, Winston-Salem

My first love

My third grade teacher at Happy Valley School made an unforgettable impression on me. That was Miss Harmon, my first love.

I was 8 years old, it was 1943, and our country was at war. Miss Harmon would lead us in prayer every morning and pray for our troops. On a large blackboard in front of the room, she wrote the names of all those we knew who were in the military. She had us bring pictures of any soldier we knew, and she put them up where we could see them. My brother Jim was one of the names on that prayer list. I felt so good about us praying for my brother.

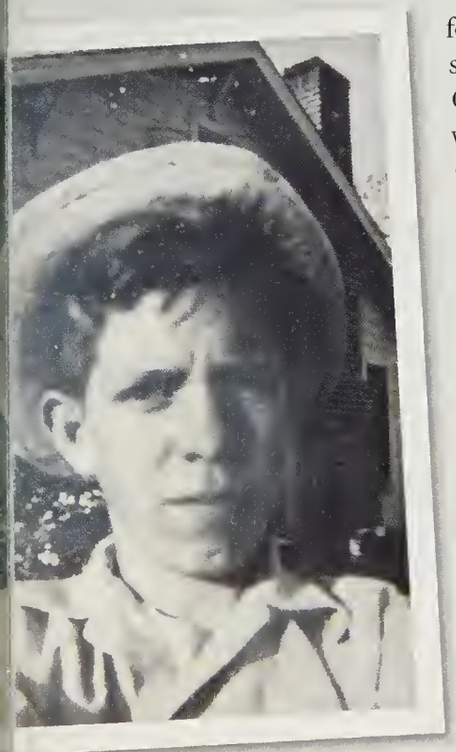
I don't know what happened to Miss Harmon. I do remember her as one who touched my life in a most positive way. God bless those teachers who touch young lives in the manner Miss Harmon touched mine. I'm sure there are many who do so and never know how they've influenced the lives of youngsters.

Bob Church, Lenoir, Blue Ridge Electric

Daddy's selfie

My dad, Billy Frank Long, made a "selfie" picture many years ago before it became such a phenomenon. It was in 1942 when he was 10 years old at the family's second and last home site.

He was born Oct. 4, 1932, in Union County. I have a tape of my grandmother at the age of 82 speaking of going into labor with my dad while she was out milking the cow. My grandfather told my grandmother to go on up to the house and wait; he would be there when the chores were completed. She did and Daddy was born shortly afterwards. As were most people during that time, Daddy was born at home.



He lived in Alabama for two years when he served in the Army. Otherwise, he lived his whole life in Union County and was a longtime member of the Union electric cooperative.

My youngest daughter is the queen of "selfies" in our family. I gave her this framed picture for Christmas several years ago and told her this is where she got her enthusiasm to do "selfies."

Jill Messer, Monroe, Union Power Cooperative

This is Chirper and me in 1967.

Chirper

When I was a child, I spent my days with an older couple, Ma and Pa Perry, who owned a farm across the road from my dad's country store. There, my playmates were a variety of cats, dogs, cows and chickens who lived on the farm. Even though I loved them all, my fondest memories are of Chirper, a brown and buff hen that I raised from a biddy.

My parents allowed Chirper to come to our house to spend her formative years. I still find it hard to believe my parents allowed a chicken to live in the house! Chirper was my constant companion, and everyone in the family loved her. Even our dog let her ride around on his back.

When Chirper grew into a full-blown chicken, she returned to the farm where she could roam free. Sometimes, I would call Ma Perry and she would find Chirper and put her on the phone. I would talk and Chirper would answer with very conversational clucking. I taught Chirper tricks like fetching, leaping up for a treat and flying up to ride on my shoulder as I played around the farm. I learned chickens are smarter than you think.

Betty Mize, Boone, Blue Ridge Electric

SEND US YOUR *Memories*

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Guidelines:

1. Approximately 200 words.
2. Digital photos must be at least 600kb or 1200 by 800 pixels.
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5. We pay $50 for each one published in the magazine. We retain reprint rights.
6. Include your name, mailing address and the name of your electric cooperative.
7. **E-mail:** iremember@carolinacountry.com **Or by U.S. mail:** I Remember, Carolina Country, 3400 Sumner Blvd., Raleigh, NC 27616

Feelgoodz

From farm to foot, these shoes are made with 100 percent natural materials and provide fair wages to artisans in cooperatives around the world. They are for the "soul traveler" who likes to be comfortably stylish and is people-conscious. Feelgoodz recently launched a new flip-flop collection designed in collaboration with musician Jack Johnson. All proceeds from sales of the Jack Johnson collection benefit the Kokua Hawaii Foundation, a non-profit that supports environmental education in Hawaiian schools and communities.

Headquartered in Raleigh, Feelgoodz flagship store, Treehouse, is in downtown Raleigh. To find a store closest to you that carries Feelgoodz shoes, call (888) 246-5305. Shoppers may also order online at the website. Feelgoodz offers sizes for kids, women and men. Prices range from $19.99 to $49.99.

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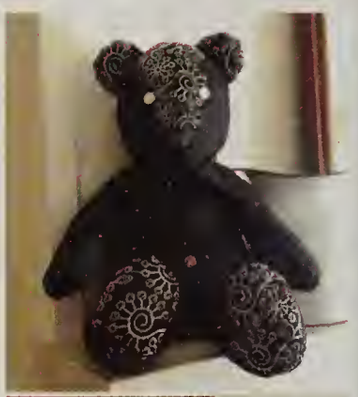
Memory bears, neckties and more



These unique keepsakes are created from neckties, t-shirts, blue jeans and other garments to celebrate the life of someone special or to mark an occasion you wish to remember. In addition to bears made from blankets and pillows created from neckties, owner Denise McDaniel of Cooleemee can make other special items from your treasured materials, such as Christmas stockings, luggage tags and laptop bags made from beloved ties. When someone you love becomes a memory, turn that memory into something you not only hold in your heart, but in your hands.

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on the bookshelf

Beer lover's guide to the Carolinas

This new guide features breweries, brewpubs and beer bars geared toward hop heads looking to seek out the best beers — from bitter seasonal IPAs to rich, dark stouts — that both North Carolina and South Carolina have to offer. The guide also offers beer recipes for home brewers, regional food recipes that incorporate beer, suggested regional food and beer pairings, and walkable pub crawl itineraries for craft beer-centric destinations.

Written by Charlotte author and marketer Daniel Hartis, "Beer Lover's the Carolinas: Best Breweries, Brewpubs and Beer Bars" is published by Globe Pequot Press. Softcover, 336 pages, $14.96.

booksamillion.com

Hiking North Carolina's National Forests

North Carolina's 1.2 million acres of national forestland are some of our state's most distinctive and botanically diverse areas. Veteran outdoor writer Johnny Molloy covers these beautiful, often surprising wild areas, guiding you safely there and back. Molloy renders the sometimes primitive trails accessible to both beginner and more intrepid hikers, from families with small children to dedicated wilderness wanderers. Spotlighting the best hikes in all four of North Carolina's national forests — Nantahala, Pisgah, Uwharrie and Croatan, ranging from the mountains to the coast — this book includes both heralded destinations and lesser-known gems.

Features include a hike summary, including distance, time and difficulty of each trip; detailed instructions; GPS coordinates of trailheads; a cultural and natural history of each area and best seasons to go; fees, permits and contact information; and photos and maps. Softcover, 272 pages, $22. Hardcover, $45. E-book, $21.99.

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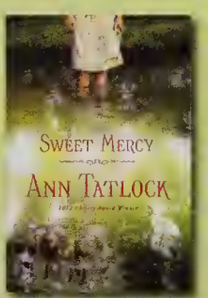
Sweet Mercy



In this coming-of-age drama, when Eve Marryat's father is laid off from the Ford Motor Company in 1931, he must leave St. Paul, Minn., and move back to Ohio. Eve's uncle Cyrus has invited the family to live and work at his Marryat Island Ballroom and Lodge. Eve can't wait to leave St. Paul, a notorious haven for gangsters. At 17, she considers her family to be "good people," not lawbreakers like so many in her neighborhood. Thrilled to be moving to a "safe haven," Eve soon forms an unlikely friendship with a strange young man named Link, blissfully unaware that her uncle's lodge is anything but what it seems.

When the reality becomes clear, Eve is faced with a dilemma. Does she dare risk everything by exposing the man whose love and generosity is keeping her family from ruin? And when things turn dangerous, can she truly trust Link? Written by Ann Tatlock of Asheville and published by Bethany House. Softcover, 320 pages, $13.68. E-book, $10.49.

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Clearing the air

A North Carolina program called "Clean School Bus NC: Kids Breathe Here" was among nine projects in the U.S. to receive the Clean Air Excellence Award from the EPA in early April. The program used local, state and federal funds to replace, repower or retrofit 1,891 school buses with exhaust controls and implemented policies and incentives to reduce idling by bus drivers.

The project was a joint effort of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) Transportation Services Section and the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources Division of Air Quality.

"Our statewide transportation team keeps over 13,000 buses running safely on a daily basis," said NCDPI transportation services director Derek Graham. "In addition, they have been eager to embrace new technologies, alternative fuels, reduced idling policies and various clean air education initiatives to help ensure the health of students."

Making history at course No. 2

Pinehurst's legendary golf course No. 2 will once again make history this month when both the Men's and Women's U.S. Opens will be contested, back to back, on its diabolical greens (June 12–22). The course at Pinehurst Resort in Moore County has served as the site of more championships than any other course in America.

Historic Pinehurst's origins date to 1895, when Boston soda fountain magnate James Walker Tufts arrived in the mostly barren Sandhills with an eye toward building a health resort. He hired a talented young Scot named Donald Ross to build him a few golf courses, from which the challenging No. 2 was created.

While Ross would go on to design more than 400 courses, it is No. 2 that usually is followed by these words: "Donald Ross' masterpiece." His courses' hallmark is their undulating, natural look. (Interestingly, although Ross loved golf he refused to bet a dime on it, saying he thought betting demeaned the courtly sport.)

ESPN and NBC will broadcast more than 40 hours of live coverage for the events. For more about the U.S. Open Championships and Ross, visit www.usopen.com and pinehurst.com!

tar heel lessons
a guide to NC for teachers and students

Do you know...

that June is North Carolina Blueberry Month? North Carolina has more than 100 farms that grow blueberries, with the highbush season typically extending from mid-May to July and rabbiteye varieties ripening in July and August. Festivals to celebrate this highly healthy, tasty fruit include the Ammon Blueberry Festival, held Saturday, June 1, in Garland (910-588-4554) and the North Carolina Blueberry Festival on Saturday, June 21, in Burgaw (910-259-2007 or ncblueberryfestival.com).

Feel like plucking berries fresh off the branch? Find pick-your-own patches, as well as farmers markets and roadside markets, near you at ncfarmfresh.com.

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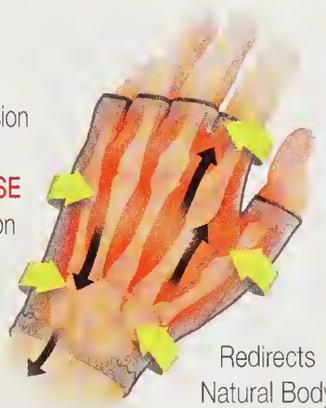

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By L.A. Jackson

Milk made

There are two reasons to drink milk: (1) It's good for you, and (2) the plastic gallon jug it comes in is good for your garden. For mixing growing solutions in particular, these containers are handy as measuring tools. Many times, plant food and pesticide instructions require a certain amount of chemical to be mixed with a gallon of water, and who has a measuring cup that big? If you drink milk, you do.

A milk jug can also be converted into an efficient irrigator for a plant beyond the reach of the water hose. Simply punch two tiny holes in the bottom, fill it with water (or a weak fertilizer solution) and set it next to a young plant with the holes pointed towards the plant. Leave the top on loosely to create a slight vacuum—it will cause the solution to slowly leak into the ground, assuring the plant a long, thorough soaking.

If you cut a milk jug in half just below the handle, you will have four useful garden items. By poking a small hole in the bottom portion for drainage, the lower half becomes a planter—not a pretty planter, mind you, but a functional one all the same. And if it is filled with a rambler such as creeping Jenny, mint or creeping thyme that readily crawls over and covers the sides, who's going to see the container anyway?

With the cap off, the top half of the milk jug can be a funnel. The large opening makes it handy for such jobs as pouring grass seed or fertilizer into a hand-held spreader or gasoline into motorized garden equipment. With the cap on, it becomes a scoop with a handle for dirt, fertilizer, lime, water or whatever.

Finally, if you are using an all-purpose herbicide close to some of your favorite plants (especially on a windy day), take the cap back off, invert the funnel over an offending weed, spray into the container top and then move on to the next weed.

Garden To Do's

June

- Any holes that have begun to appear in the flower bed can be quickly filled with heat-seekers such as sun coleus, celosia, impatiens, nicotiana, portulaca and zinnia that thrive in the summer sun.
- Add flowering magic to the backyard pond by dropping in a few tropical water lilies. Add fertilizer to each of the plants' pots, as these heavy-feeders need the extra nutrients for maximum bloom production.

Tip of the Month

Who says it's too early for Halloween? Pumpkin seeds started by the middle of June outdoors should mature into hauntingly handsome jack-o-lanterns just in time for October's Spookfest. Grow pumpkin plants in well-worked, heavily amended soil in a sunny location, and water them thoroughly when the rains don't come. Keep the vines thickly mulched with compost, and add either a commercial time-release fertilizer at planting time or a diluted natural fertilizer such as fish emulsion or compost tea at least every three to four weeks. For more symmetrical shapes, gently shift the bases of pumpkins' contact with the ground once a week. Want to go big, big, BIG? For bragging-size pumpkins, after the plants set fruit, reduce the number of pumpkins to only two or three per vine.

A pineapple lily being treated to a milk jug full of liquid fertilizer refreshment.

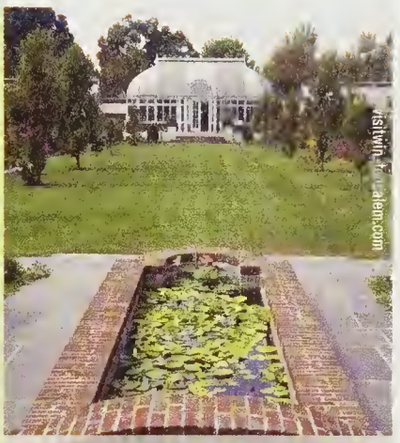
- Lightly side-dress with fertilizer any established vegetables that have begun to set crops.
- Rake up and discard any fallen fruit and leaves from underneath fruit trees to discourage insects and diseases that could cause problems later.
- For the same reason, start raking up and disposing spent petals and foliage of roses.

July

- To maximize production from your tomato plants, pinch off any suckers that are growing below the fruits. However, the suckers above the fruits should remain because they help provide the fruits some relieving shade from the incessant shine of the summer sun.
- Pinched tomato suckers can produce this fall's tomato crop. Place each sucker in a 2 to 3-inch container of potting soil and keep them moist in a lightly shaded spot. The suckers will quickly root and be ready to plant when you prepare your fall vegetable garden.
- Herbs are usually at their harvesting best just before flowering when they contain the maximum in essential oils. Pick herbs early in the morning before the sun has a chance to heat the plants up.
- Houseplants vacationing outside should be watched for signs of insect activity such as egg laying that could become infestations once they are brought back inside in the fall. Wiping the leaves occasionally (both on top and underneath) with a damp cloth will help waylay egg-laying activities.
- Enjoy a good drink after a day in the garden? Your insect-eating feathered friends do, too, so be sure to clean out and refill the birdbath at least once a week during the hot, hazy days of summer.

Find a public garden

It's a good time to get inspired by one or two of the many public gardens blooming in North Carolina. North Carolina Cooperative Extension has posted an interactive map showing all kinds of public gardens: historical, Extension demonstration, arboretum, botanical, natural, rose and others. Search for "public gardens" at the site gardening.ces.ncsu.edu. Meantime here is a small sampling of some.



Paul J. Ciener Botanical Garden, Kernersville

Airlie Gardens, Wilmington
Historic waterfront plantation estate's 67 acres. (910) 798-7700 airliegardens.org

Cape Fear Botanical Garden, Fayetteville
77-acre garden located on the Cape Fear and Cross Creek rivers. (910) 486-0221, capefearbg.org

Daniel Boone Native Gardens, Boone
Hundreds of plant varieties, rock garden, pond on three acres. (828) 264-6390 danielboonenativegardens.org

Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden, Belmont
450 acres along the banks of Lake Wylie just west of Charlotte. (704) 825-4490, dsbg.org

Elizabethan Gardens, Roanoke Island
A formal garden that includes a sunken garden and rose garden. (252) 473-3234 elizabethangardens.org

Flora Macdonald Gardens, Red Springs
On the Academy campus, 12 acres. (910) 843-4995 floramacdonald.org

JC Raulston Arboretum, Raleigh
White garden, bedding plant trails, Japanese garden on N.C. State campus. (919) 515-3132, jcra.ncsu.edu

Juniper Level Botanic, Raleigh
Specialty nursery and botanic gardens near Garner with more than 6,000 different plants. (919) 772-4794, plantdelights.com

North Carolina Botanical Garden, Chapel Hill
More than 1,000 acres, including display gardens and natural areas. (919) 962-0522, ncbg.unc.edu

Paul J. Ciener Botanical Garden, Kernersville
7-acre site features 10 gardens. (336) 996-7888, pjcbg.org

Reynolda Gardens, Winston-Salem
Formal gardens once part of the R.J. Reynolds estate, with greenhouse and conservatory. (336) 758-5593 reynoldagardens.org

Sarah P. Duke Gardens, Durham
55 acres at Duke University include terraces, native plants garden, Asiatic arboretum. (919) 684-3698 gardens.duke.edu

The North Carolina Arboretum, Blue Ridge Parkway
434 acres near Asheville include art installations, cultivated gardens, bonsai collection. (828) 665-2492 ncarboretum.org

UNC-Charlotte Botanical Gardens, Charlotte
Orchids, desert plants, carnivorous and tropical plants. (704) 687-0720 gardens.uncc.edu

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Domi-No.s

And then there's the one about the two cheerleaders who _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _.

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4	8	4
Y	T	Y
	X	2
		B
_	_	_
_	_	_

1	2
N	B
X	2
	B
_	_
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3	6	7	5	9	0
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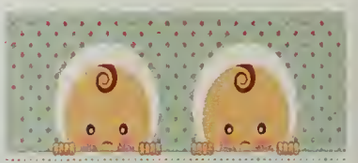

TWIN TWINS

Most of you have heard of the twins named Pete and RePete. But perhaps not all of you know of Kate and DupliKate.

The Pundit Says

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Use the capital letters in the code key below to fill in the blanks above.

A E I P R T means
s o l v e d

Oh, Kay!

NOW You Know

I only heard my father curse once in his lifetime. I must have been about 9 or 10 years old when he shocked and surprised me by muttering, after opening something he had just received by mail-order, **"It's not worth a tinker's dam."** I was a teenager when I learned that he hadn't cursed after all. The expression is a euphemism, a phrase that replaces an offensive one.

Some of you reading this may not know that a tinker, in former times, was a person who traveled from place to place to make a living mending kitchen utensils such as a pot with a hole in it. His dam, often just a small piece of paper, was used to stop the flow of soldering material he applied to close the hole. Used once, it was useless and was thrown away. Now you know. And you may think that knowing is **not worth a tinker's dam.**

DAFFYNITION:

Jonah and Ahab:
Males on Whales

For answers, please see page 49

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June Events

Grandfather Mountain's Remarkable Rhododendron Rambles let you get the most out of these pretty pink plants that bloom slopeside in early summer. Guided walks and special programs are held daily from Tuesday, June 1, through Sunday, June 16. (800) 468-7325 or grandfather.com

Mountains (west of I-77)

Artist In Resident
Richard Tumbleston
June 5–7, West Jefferson
(336) 846-3827
florenceartschool.org

Charity Horse Show
June 5–8, Blowing Rock
(828) 295-4636
blowingrockhorses.com

First Friday
June 6, West Jefferson
(336) 846-3827
florenceartschool.org

Liver Mush Festival
June, Marion
(828) 652-2215
hometownmarion.com

National Trails Day
June 7, Chimney Rock
(828) 625-9611
chimneyrockpark.com

Critter Crawl 5K
Human race benefits animal habitats
June 7, Linville
(800) 468-7325
grandfather.com

Art, River & Music Festival
June 7, Murphy
(828) 361-9584

Evening With John Godwin
Duck Dynasty personality
June 7, Hickory
(828) 612-6754
ticketor.com/missionminded

Gallery Crawl
June 13, West Jefferson
(336) 846-2787
ashecountyarts.org

Pop Ferguson Blues Heritage Festival
June 13–14, Lenoir
(828) 221-5022
visitlenoir.org

Carolina Thresher & Antique Tractor Show
June 13–14, Shelby
(704) 487-0651
clevelandcountyfair.com

Art In The Park
June 14, Blowing Rock
(828) 295-4636
blowingrock.com/artinthepark

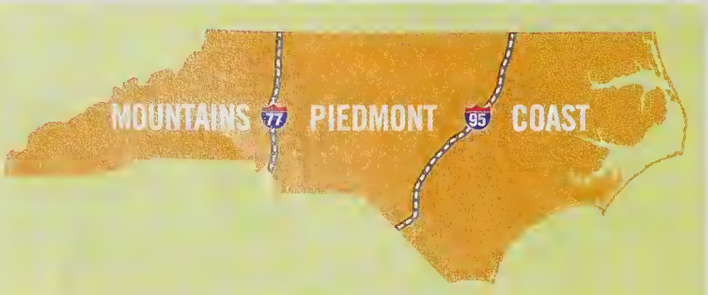
Mountain & Hammered Dulcimers
Hands-on workshop
June 14, Chimney Rock
(828) 625-9611
chimneyrockpark.com

National Get Outdoors Day
June 14, Chimney Rock
(828) 625-9611
chimneyrockpark.com

Rock On!
Naturalist Niche Series
June 14, Chimney Rock
(828) 625-9611
chimneyrockpark.com

Animal Birthday Party
June 18, Linville
(800) 468-7325
grandfather.com

Studio Tour #7
Alleghany Arts & Crafts
June 20–22, Sparta
(336) 372-1776



Listing Deadlines:
For Aug.: June 25
For Sept.: July 25

Submit Listings Online:
Visit carolinacountry.com and click "Carolina Adventures" to add your event to the magazine and/or our website. Or e-mail events@carolinacountry.com.

Movie On The Meadow
June 21, Chimney Rock
(828) 625-9611
chimneyrockpark.com

Bear W Daylily Festival
June 21, Morganton
(828) 584-3699
bearwdaylilyfarm.com

Rev War Days
June 21–22, Old Fort
(828) 668-4831
davidsonsfort.com

Summer Show
Blue Ridge Artist & Crafters
June 21–22, Near Lake Junaluska
(828) 648-0500
bracaorg.com

Singing On The Mountain
June 22, Linville
(800) 468-7325
grandfather.com

Gala Benefit & Auction
June 28, Brasstown
(828) 837-2775
folkschool.org

Little Big Town In Concert
Appalachian Summer event
June 28, Boone
(800) 841-2787
appalachiansummer.org

Singing In Hominy Valley
June 30–Jul 5, Hominy
(828) 667-8502
primitivequartet.com

ONGOING

Art Walk
First Friday through Nov., Murphy
(828) 644-0043
valleyriverarts.com

Thunder Road Cruise In
First Sunday through Oct., Mount Airy
(336) 401-3900

Street Dance
Monday nights, Hendersonville
(828) 693-9708
historichendersonville.org

Carson House Guided Tours
Wednesday–Saturdays, Marion
(828) 724-4948
www.historiccarsonhouse.com

Bluegrass Music Jam
Thursdays, Marion
(828) 652-2215

Cruise In
Second Sat. through Sept., Dobson
(336) 648-2309

Remarkable Rhododendron Ramble
Through June 16, Linville
(800) 468-7325
grandfather.com

Frida Kahlo Celebration
Dance and art
June 20–29, Asheville
(828) 254-2621
www.acdt.org

Quilling Art Display
By Beth Oczkowski
Through June 30, Lenoir
(828) 754-2486
caldwellarts.com

Family Fun Nature Program
Through June 30, Chimney Rock
(828) 625-9611
chimneyrockpark.com

"What? No Camera?"
Creative digital photography
Through July 6, Asheville
(828) 633-0202
barbarasammons.com

Horn In The West
June 27–Aug. 16, Boone
(828) 264-2120
horninthewest.com

Hickory Ridge Living History Museum
Through Oct. 11, Boone
(828) 264-2120
hickoryridgemuseum.com

Fine Art & Heritage Craft Workshops
Through Oct. 31, West Jefferson
(336) 846-3827
florenceartschool.org

Rockin' Naturalist Guided Hikes
June 7–28, Chimney Rock
(828) 625-9611
chimneyrockpark.com

Art Exhibit
Paul Keysar
June 13–July 4, West Jefferson
(336) 846-3827
florenceartschool.org

Piedmont

Comedian Rickey Smiley & Friends
June 6, Fayetteville
(910) 438-4121
atthecrown.com

Friday Night Live
Food, drink and music downtown
June 6 & 20, Belmont
(704) 829-7711

Carz For Kidz Show
Youth ministry fundraiser
June 7, Fayetteville
(910) 728-5372
newlifehopemills.com

5K/10K Run For The Legend
June 7, Fayetteville
(910) 643-2766
asomf.org

John (Stick Boy) Lyndine

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Lumbee Homecoming June 28th - July 5th
Pembroke, North Carolina

46th Annual Lumbee Homecoming

Saturday, June 28 Event
Golf Tournament (Pinecrest Country Club)
Registration 7:30-8:30 am; Tee Off 9:00 am; Lunch 12:00

Saturday, July 5, 2014 Events
Lumbee Outdoor Market (Monday-Saturday)
9:00 am (Food, Arts, or Crafts) – 636 Prospect Road
5K Run/Fun Walk (Kiwanis)
Southeastern Fitness Center
Registration 6:00 am - 7:00 am – Race starts at 7:15 am
Car Show – 8:00 am - 3:00 pm – 636 Prospect Road
Parade – 10:00 am – 636 Prospect Road
AISES Pow-wow – 12:00 noon – UNCP Quad
Outdoor Gospel Concert – 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm – LRDA Office Complex
Lumbee Fireworks Sky Show – 9:00 pm – LRDA Office Complex

Miss Lumbee Alexis V. Locklear

For all events go to:
www.lumbeehomecoming.com
910-521-8602

Brenda Scott

Stagville descendant Charlene Justice-Bass looks into a mirror that reflects what may have been the slave quarters where her ancestors lived. The photo is part of "Stagville: Black & White," a free exhibit that explores the plantation's people and buildings, on view at the N.C. Museum of History in Raleigh. (919) 807-7900 or ncmuseumofhistory.org

Blues 'N Brews
June 7, Fayetteville
(910) 527-1864
cfrt.org

Salute To 1940's Swing Dance
Live jazz, food, WWII exhibit and attire
June 7, Raleigh
(919) 996-3775
cityofraleighmuseum.org

Maker Faire North Carolina
June 7, Raleigh
(919) 307-1976
makerfairenc.com

Beatlemania 1964: The Tribute
Live performance, documentary
June 7, Raleigh
(919) 664-6795
ncartmuseum.org

Remembering D-Day
June 7–8, Waxhaw
(704) 843-1832
museumofthewaxhaws.com

Farmland Documentary
Carolina Theater
June 12, Durham
(919)-547-2147
farmlandfilm.com/private-rsvp

Bull Fest
Local musicians, crafts, food
June 14, Durham
(919) 477-5498
dukehomestead.org

Jason Michael Carroll Birthday Bash
June 14, Selma
(919) 750-5464
thefarmnc.com/live-music

Love's Labours Lost
Poignant comedy
June 18–22, Fayetteville
(910) 916-0281
sweetteashakespeare.com

Business Expo
June 19, Rolesville
(919) 562-7069
rolesvillechamber.org

Fayetteville After 5
June 20, Fayetteville
(910) 323-1934
faydogwoodfestival.com

301 Endless Yard Sale
June 20–21, Selma
(919) 989-8687
301endlessyardsale.com

4th Friday
June 27, Fayetteville
(910) 323-1776
theartscouncil.com

Writer-Educator Maya Angelou
Women Who Lead Luncheon
June 28, Charlotte
(704) 377-8625
uncf.org

Project Appleseed
Learn rifle marksmanship skills
June 28–29, Ramseur
(919) 280-9389
appleseedinfo.org

ONGOING

Maness Pottery & Music Barn
Dinner, music, fellowship
Tuesday nights, Midway
(910) 948-4897

Durham Civil War Roundtable
Third Thursdays, Durham
(919) 643-0466

Art After Hours
Second Fridays, Wake Forest
(919) 570-0765
sunflowerstudiowf.com

Betty Lynn (Thelma Lou)
Appearance at Andy Griffith Museum
Third Fridays, Mount Airy
(336) 786-7998
visitmayberry.com

Fourth Friday
Arts, shopping
Fayetteville
(910) 483-5311
theartscouncil.com

ARTQUILTSwhimsy!
Through June 21, Cary
(919) 460-4963
paqa-south.org

A Company of Wayward Saints
Comedy about a traveling troupe
May 30–June 14, Fayetteville
(910) 678-7186
gilberttheater.com

Sherlock Holmes: The Sleeping Detective
Retired PI has a new mystery
May 29–June 15, Fayetteville
(910) 678-7186
gilberttheater.com

The Fifth Element–Art Show
Through June 22, Hillsborough
(919) 732-5001
hillsboroughgallery.com

One of 3: A Juried Competition
Through July 19, Fayetteville
(910) 323-1776
theartscouncil.com

Field Of Honor Flags
Through July 21, Fayetteville
(910) 222-3282
ncfieldofhonor.com

Sports In The Sandhills
Through Aug. 31, Fayetteville
(910) 486-1330
museumofthecapefear.ncdcr.gov

Street Video Installation
Through Sept. 7, Raleigh
(919) 664-6795
ncartmuseum.org

Thunder Road Cruise-In
First Sundays through Oct. 25, Mount Airy
(336) 401-3900

Bluegrass Pickin' Shed
Thursday nights through Nov. 15, Laurel Hill
(910) 462-3636

Music Barn
Saturday evenings, Through Dec. 31, Mt. Gilead
(910) 220-6426
mgmusicbarn.com

Beach & Jazzy Fridays
Cypress Bend Vineyards
Through Dec. 26, Wagram
(910) 369-0411
cypressbendvineyards.com

Stagville: Black & White
Photo exhibit
Through Jan. 2015, Raleigh
(919) 807-7900
ncmuseumofhistory.org

City Market at the Museum
June 4–28, Fayetteville
(910) 433-1457

Oldies, Rock & Blues Music
June 6–20, Hope Mills
(910) 426-4109

Lafayette Exhibit
June 7–Jan. 3, Fayetteville
(910) 433-1457
fcpr.us/transportation_museum.aspx

Men's & Women's U.S. Open
June 12–22, Pinehurst
(800) 795-4653
pinehurst.com

American Dance Festival
June 12–July 26, Durham
(919) 684-6402
americandancefestival.org

Spring Concert Series
June 13–27, Fayetteville
(910) 486-0221
capefearbg.org

"Intersections: Painter, Potter, Painter"
June 27–July 20, Hillsborough
(919) 732-5001
hillsboroughgallery.com

Coast (east of I-95)

TrainWreck
Sunday in the Park concert
June 1, Greenville
(252) 329-4567
grpd.info

Blueberry Festival
June 1, Garland
(910) 588-4554

Homes Tour & Auction
June 5, Pine Knoll Shores
(252) 808-2998
kayakforthewarriors.org

Mental Comedy of Carl Andrews
June 7, Scotland Neck
(252) 883-9827
townofscotlandneck.com

Warriors Kayak/ Paddleboard Race
June 7, Pine Knoll Shores
(252) 247-4353
kayakforthewarriors.org

Wade Founder's Day
June 7, Wade
(910) 485-3502
wadenc.com

Church Yard Sale
June 7, Belhaven
(252) 964-3018

Handmade & Homegrown Festival
June 7, Scotland Neck
(252) 826-3152
townofscotlandneck.com

Boating Workshop
By Fort Macon Sail & Power Squadron
June 7–8, Morehead City
(252) 726-0630
fmsps.org

Cape Fear BBQ Festival
June 7–8, Burgaw
(910) 795-0292
capefearbbqfestival.com

Tar River Community Band
Sunday in the Park concert
June 8, Greenville
(252) 329-4567
grpd.info

Nutrition 101
June 12, Swansboro
(910) 326-2600
swansboro.recdesk.com

Concerts At The Fort
June 13 & 20, Fort Macon
(252) 393-7313
friendsoffortmacon.org

National Tractor & Truck Pull
June 13–15, Newport
(252) 223-4019
newportfleamall.com

Pitt Community College Symphony Orchestra
Sunday in the Park concert
June 15, Greenville
(252) 329-4567
grpd.info

Planes
Movie Mania series
June 20, Swansboro
(910) 326-2600
swansboro.recdesk.com

Celebration Of Praise
The Hoppers & The Whisnants
June 21, Kenansville
(910) 275-0009
duplinevent.com

Antique Farm & Heritage Expo
June 21, Edenton
(252) 482-4057

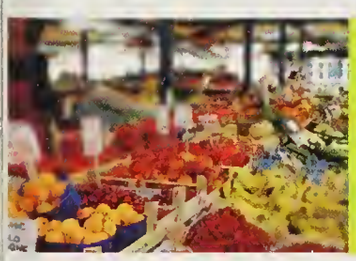
The Castaways
Sunday in the Park concert
June 22, Greenville
(252) 329-4567
grpd.info

Bruce Hornsby & The Noisemakers
With Pat McGee Band & Chessboxer
June 26, Manteo
(252) 475-1500
brewthru.com

Upcycle This!
June 26, Swansboro
(910) 326-2600
swansboro.recdesk.com

Fourth Of July Festival Freedom Run
June 28, Southport
(910) 457-6964
nc4thofjuly.com

S&D Gun And Knife Show
June 28–29, Greenville
(252) 321-7671
ncgunshow.com



There are more than 200 markets in North Carolina offering fresh produce and more. For information about one near you, visit ncfarmfresh.com/farmmarkets.asp

The annual Kayak for the Warriors is set for Saturday, June 7, in Pine Knoll Shores. A family fun race, paddleboard race, bike rides, lunch, raffle and awards are part of the fun. All proceeds help benefit Hope for the Warriors. (252) 247-4353, ext 10, or kayakforthewarriors.org

Patriotic Concert
Sea Notes Choral Society
June 28–29, Bolivia
(910) 363-4183
sea-notes.com

Carolina Still
Sunday in the Park concert
June 29, Greenville
(252) 329-4567
grpd.info

College Boot Camp
June 30, Swansboro
(910) 326-2600
swansboro.recdesk.com

ONGOING

Art Walk
First Friday, Elizabeth City
(252) 335-5330
ecncart.com

Art Walk
First Friday, Greenville
(252) 561-8400
uptowngreenville.com

Historic District Guided Tours
Second Saturdays through October
Murfreesboro
(252) 398-5922

Pound
New fitness class
Through July 7, Swansboro
(910) 326-2600
swansboro.recdesk.com

Summer Concerts
Fridays through Sept. 5,
Ocean Isle
(252) 923-3971

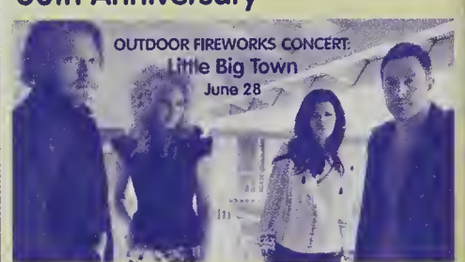
"The Marvelous Wonderettes: Caps & Gowns"
Nostalgic musical
June 6–15, New Bern
(252) 633-3318
rivertowneplayers.com

Lumbee Homecoming
June 28–July 5, Pembroke
(910) 521-8602
lumbeehomecoming.com

Appalachian Energy Center
APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY
Upcoming Workshops:
June 7 Distributed Wind Energy Workshop
June 13-14 Photovoltaic System Fundamentals
July 11-12 Solar Thermal Water Heating Fundamentals

Learn about energy efficiency & renewable energy - stay the weekend in the mountains!
Visit energy.appstate.edu for details, CE credits, & the complete schedule
millerjm1@appstate.edu, 828.262.8913

An Appalachian Summer Festival
30th Anniversary



FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS
Outdoor Fireworks Concert: Little Big Town June 28
Pilobolus July 3
Michael McDonald July 5
Eastern Festival Orchestra with Sir James Galway, flute July 6
Triad Stage: "All's Well That Ends Well" July 10
Summer Exhibition Celebration at the Turchin Center July 11
Matthew Morrison July 12
Nickel Creek July 14
Dance Theatre of Harlem July 19
Sheryl Crow July 24
National Youth Orchestra with Gil Shaham, violin July 26

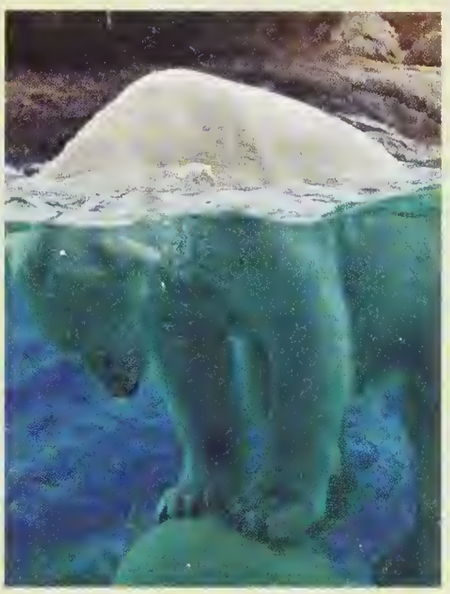
Plus lectures, chamber music, film series, visual arts exhibitions, workshops & more!

TICKETS & MORE INFORMATION:
appsummer.org
800.841.ARTS BOONE, NC

CAROLINA COUNTRY adventures

The North Carolina Zoo turns 40

By Marilyn Jones



From the very beginning, it was a conscious effort to make the North Carolina Zoo in Asheboro a shining example of what an animal sanctuary should be. This year the zoo is celebrating its 40th year of achieving that goal.

"They wanted to build the very best," says Owen George whose father Alvis George served as the Architect and Project Coordinator for the original N.C. Zoo design project.

Alvis traveled with zoo director William Hoff and five other professionals on a four-week study trip to Africa and to several well-known European zoos during October and November 1973.

"I remember my dad saying they visited zoos not so much to see what worked, but to see what didn't," recalls Owen.

The men returned to North Carolina with a vision of creating a natural habitat zoo that would surpass any other in existence. For Alvis, it was the beginning of a creative collaboration with the zoo that would last for 30 years until his death in 2001.

Visiting the zoo

First, there's its size: 2,000 acres (one of the world's largest) with more than 500 acres developed into two continents — North America and Africa. Joined by a tram, the two continents feature 1,600 animals.

Two western lowland gorillas and their toddlers, born at the zoo, are the stars of Africa as the two little boys romp and wrestle on the soft green grass. Other primates include baboons and chimpanzees. Watani Grasslands is home to rhinos, antelope, gazelles, waterbucks and ostriches. Nearby at the Forest Edge you may get the opportunity to feed a giraffe.

The North American half of the zoo highlights animals from the Arctic — a polar bear, Arctic fox and puffins — to the prairie, cypress swamp and marsh. Playful otters, three cougar cubs rescued from the wild, grizzly bears, black bears and elk are some of the other animals here. In some of the featured areas, the land is so expansive it's hard to remember you're in a zoo.

Add special attractions such as "Bugs: An Epic Adventure" and "Rio: The 4-D Experience" (through October), and you've got a memorable experience.

When you go:

There are picnic areas near Akiba Market (Africa) and North American Plaza including Solar Pointe, where the solar energy collected is used by Randolph EMC which supplies the zoo's electricity.

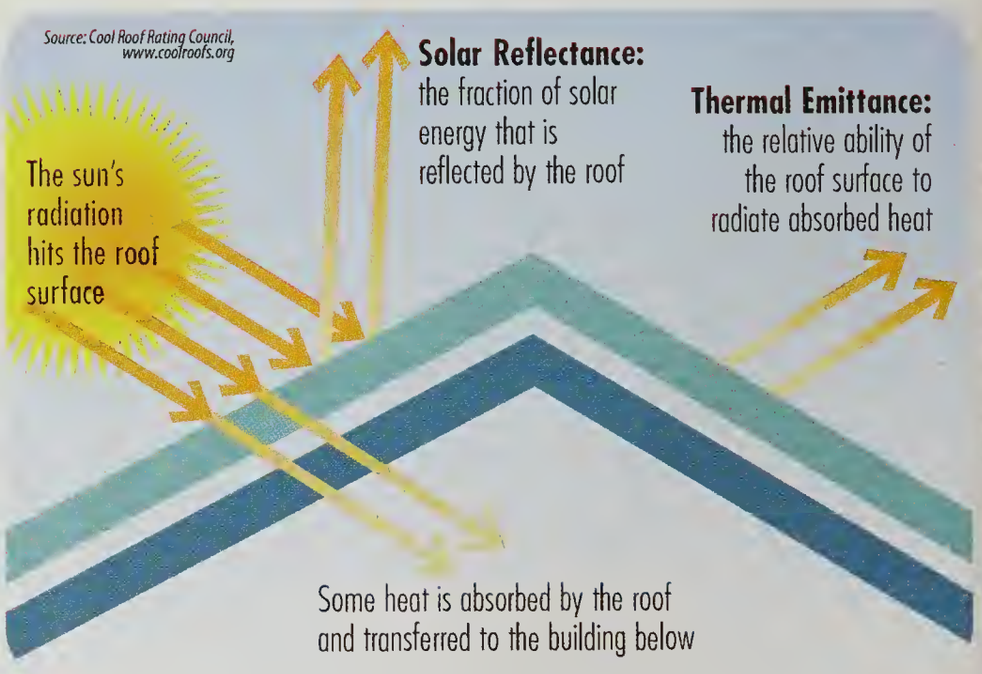
Marilyn Jones wrote about the state's aviation-related destinations in the April magazine.

For more information
(800) 488-0444
nczoo.org

By Brian Sloboda

Cool roofs

In warm climates, cools roofs can pay for themselves in energy savings


Source: Cool Roof Rating Council, www.coolroofs.org
The sun's radiation hits the roof surface
Solar Reflectance: the fraction of solar energy that is reflected by the roof
Thermal Emittance: the relative ability of the roof surface to radiate absorbed heat
Some heat is absorbed by the roof and transferred to the building below

Most homeowners dread the thought of roof replacement or repair. But by installing a "cool" roof you can save money—and energy—for little to no additional cost and effort.

Cool roofs reflect the sun using materials that have a special coating. During summer, they stay 50 to 60 degrees Fahrenheit cooler than traditional construction. Because these roofs maintain a lower temperature, less energy is needed to cool the space beneath them.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), cool roofs trim cooling loads by up to 15 percent. This not only cuts electric bills, but also extends roof life, reduces wear on cooling systems, and leads to more comfortable indoor temperatures—especially in houses with limited insulation or no air-conditioning at all.

Before purchasing a cool roof, consider adding insulation to your attic or crawl space because it remains affordable and provides year-round energy savings. For ceilings and roofs, R-30 to R-60 is usually sufficient, depending on climate. DOE offers a calculator that helps determine the insulation you need based on your ZIP code at ornl.gov/~roofs/Zip/ZipHome.html.

In addition, consider installing attic vents—continuous peak, soffit or turbine—especially if you're replacing your roof. This shrinks heat transfer to living spaces. For more information on insulation and attic vent selection, visit EnergySavers.gov.

If you decide to go with a cool roof, research the type of roofing you want and how much protection you need for your area. The coolness of a roof is determined by two properties: solar reflectance and thermal emittance. Solar reflectance simply equates to the amount of solar radiation reflected, while thermal emittance spells out how efficiently the roof cools itself by re-radiating that heat.

The combination of these two properties, called the solar reflectance index (SRI), is typically shown as a rating from 0-1. Higher ratings mean increased reflectivity and emissivity. Cool roofs boast an SRI of up to 0.85, while a conventional roof may only rate 0.05.

Cool roofs work best in sunny, warm climates where daily temperatures average above 80 degrees Fahrenheit for at least three months of the year. In northern, colder regions the opportunity for energy savings may not be as large because there are fewer cooling degree-days. But there's no disadvantage in choosing a cool roof in those places because your attic should already be well-insulated.

The main cost of installing a cool roof involves the type of material you choose. DOE estimates you'll spend an average of 75 cents per square foot extra for a cool roof, but you'll experience quick payback for the investment thanks to energy savings and a longer roof life.

Here are common cool roof options for residences:

- **Tiles.** Roof tiles made of clay, slate or concrete have low reflectivity and high emittance and are naturally cool roofs. Cool-colored coatings or glazes can be applied to the tiles to boost reflectivity and waterproofing. You can apply a cool coating on-site or purchase pre-coated tiles, which don't cost much more than regular tiles and are offered in traditional colors, such as brown, green and terra cotta.
- **Shingles.** Cool asphalt shingles are made with specially coated granules. Unlike tiles, however, cool-colored coatings are not normally recommended for shingles. Wood shakes are naturally cool roofs if they are kept bare and not stained with darker colors.
- **Metal.** Unpainted metal is naturally reflective but has very poor thermal emittance. It's a good candidate for cool coatings, either applied in the field or at the factory.

Brian Sloboda specializes in distribution operations and energy efficiency for the Cooperative Research Network, a service of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

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By Hannah McKenzie

Let the sun heat your home's water

Q: I have heard that the price for solar panels is dropping and incentives are available this year. What should I consider before taking the plunge? Would it be a good investment?

A typical residential system appropriate for a family of four consists of two 4-foot-by-8-foot solar collectors.

A: This is a terrific time to consider solar technology for your home. Solar technology has dramatically improved, prices have dropped and generous renewable energy incentives are available through the end of 2015 and 2016. The two most common systems found on homes in North Carolina are solar water heating systems and grid connected solar electric photovoltaic (PV) systems.

Solar hot water systems are the most popular solar technology. A typical residential system appropriate for a family of four consists of two 4-foot-by-8-foot solar collectors. The system also includes one heat exchanger freeze protection system and one 80-gallon solar storage tank with an electric backup heating element. These systems may provide up to 73 percent of a home's hot water used for bathing and cooking. The remaining 27 percent of hot water is heated by an electric heating element. The percentage of water heated by the sun versus electricity will vary based on the weather and a homeowner's water use habits.

Don't let sticker shock deter you. Current incentive programs make solar water heating systems very alluring. The typical installation cost is $7,500 to $8,500 for a 64-square-foot system. Assuming you spend $8,000 on a new solar water heating system that meets all the state and federal tax credit requirements before Dec. 31, 2015, the net installation cost is reduced to $4,200. A comprehensive listing and explanation of federal, state, local government and utility incentives is available at www.dsireusa.org.

Spending $4,200 is still far more expensive than a conventional water heater, but the typical first year's savings in electricity cost is around $280. That allows a payback period of 15 years. After the payback period has elapsed, the solar water heating system provides essentially free energy for the remaining life of the system other than routine maintenance costs. Most solar water heating system components have a 10-year warranty and collectors have a 30-year design life. With proper maintenance and upkeep, a solar water heating system is expected to live long past the payback period. The payback period may be further reduced if electricity rates increase in the coming years.

I am always looking for ways to save a dollar, and purchasing a solar water heating system seemed like a great idea. The solar assessment of my home started and ended with a phone call. A quick glance at an aerial photo of my home revealed substantial tree cover. The trees save me a lot of money on summertime cooling costs, but they would lengthen the payback period so much that purchasing a solar water heater wouldn't be a wise investment.

Whether solar is a good investment will vary from house to house. Even though solar technology is considered "cheap" at the moment, it's still a big chunk of change. Next month we will explore photovoltaic (PV) solar systems.

Hannah McKenzie is a residential building science consultant for Advanced Energy in Raleigh.

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Crab Cake Stuffed Portobellos

- 6 large Portobello mushrooms
- ¾ cup finely chopped sweet onion
- 2 tablespoons olive oil, divided
- 1 package (8-ounce) cream cheese, softened
- 1 egg
- ½ cup seasoned bread crumbs
- ½ cup plus 1 teaspoon grated Parmesan cheese, divided
- 1 teaspoon seafood seasoning
- 2 cans (6 ½ ounces each) lump crabmeat, drained
- ¼ teaspoon paprika

Remove stems from mushrooms (discard or save for another use); set caps aside. In a small skillet, sauté onion in 1 tablespoon olive oil until tender. In a small bowl, combine the cream cheese, egg, bread crumbs, ½ cup grated Parmesan cheese and seafood seasoning. Gently stir in crab and onion.

Spoon ½ cup crab mixture into each mushroom cap; drizzle with remaining oil. Sprinkle with paprika and remaining Parmesan cheese. Place in a greased 15-by-10-by-1-inch baking pan.

Bake, uncovered, at 400 degrees for 15–20 minutes or until mushrooms are tender.

Yield: 6 servings

Bananas Foster Crunch Mix

- 3 cups Honey Nut Chex
- 3 cups Cinnamon Chex
- 2¼ cups pecan halves
- 1½ cups dried banana chips
- ⅓ cup butter, cubed
- ⅓ cup packed brown sugar
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon banana extract
- ½ teaspoon rum extract

In a large microwave-safe bowl, combine cereals, pecans and banana chips. In a small microwave-safe bowl, combine the butter, brown sugar and cinnamon. Microwave, uncovered, on high for 2 minutes, stirring once. Stir in extracts; pour over cereal mixture and toss to coat.

Microwave, uncovered, on high for 3 minutes, stirring after each minute. Spread onto waxed paper to cool. Store in an airtight container.

Yield: 2½ quarts

Fresh Tomato Bruschetta

- 4 plum tomatoes, seeded and chopped
- ½ cup shredded Parmesan cheese
- ¼ cup minced fresh basil
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 tablespoons minced fresh parsley
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 teaspoons balsamic vinegar
- ⅛ teaspoon salt
- ⅛ teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes
- ⅛ teaspoon pepper
- 1 French bread baguette (10½ ounce), cut into ½-inch slices
- ¼ cup butter, softened
- 8 ounces fresh mozzarella cheese, sliced

In a small bowl, combine the first 10 ingredients.

Spread baguette slices with butter; top each with a cheese slice. Place on ungreased baking sheets. Broil 3–4 inches from the heat for 3–5 minutes or until cheese is melted. With a slotted spoon, top each slice with about 1 tablespoon tomato mixture.

Yield: 3 dozen

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From Your Kitchen

Blueberry Pie

- 1 large graham cracker pie crust (I recommend Ritz or make your own)
- 1 cup sugar
- ½ cup confectioners' sugar
- 3 ½ tablespoons cornstarch
- ¼ cup cold water
- 1 cup crushed blueberries
- ½ cup butter
- 1 package (8-ounce) cream cheese
- 1 to 1½ cups whole blueberries
- 1 small carton (8-ounce) Cool Whip

Combine 1 cup sugar, cornstarch mixed with water, crushed berries and butter in a saucepan. Cook over low to medium heat, stirring constantly, until slightly thickened. Cool.

While cooling, whip cream cheese and ½ cup confectioners' sugar in food processor or mixer. Spread on graham cracker crust. Layer whole berries on top of cream cheese mixture, covering cream cheese layer. Cover with cooled berry mixture and place in refrigerator until cold. When ready to serve, cover top of pie with Cool Whip.

Yield: 1 pie

This recipe comes from Pat Triplett of Lenoir, a member of Blue Ridge Electric

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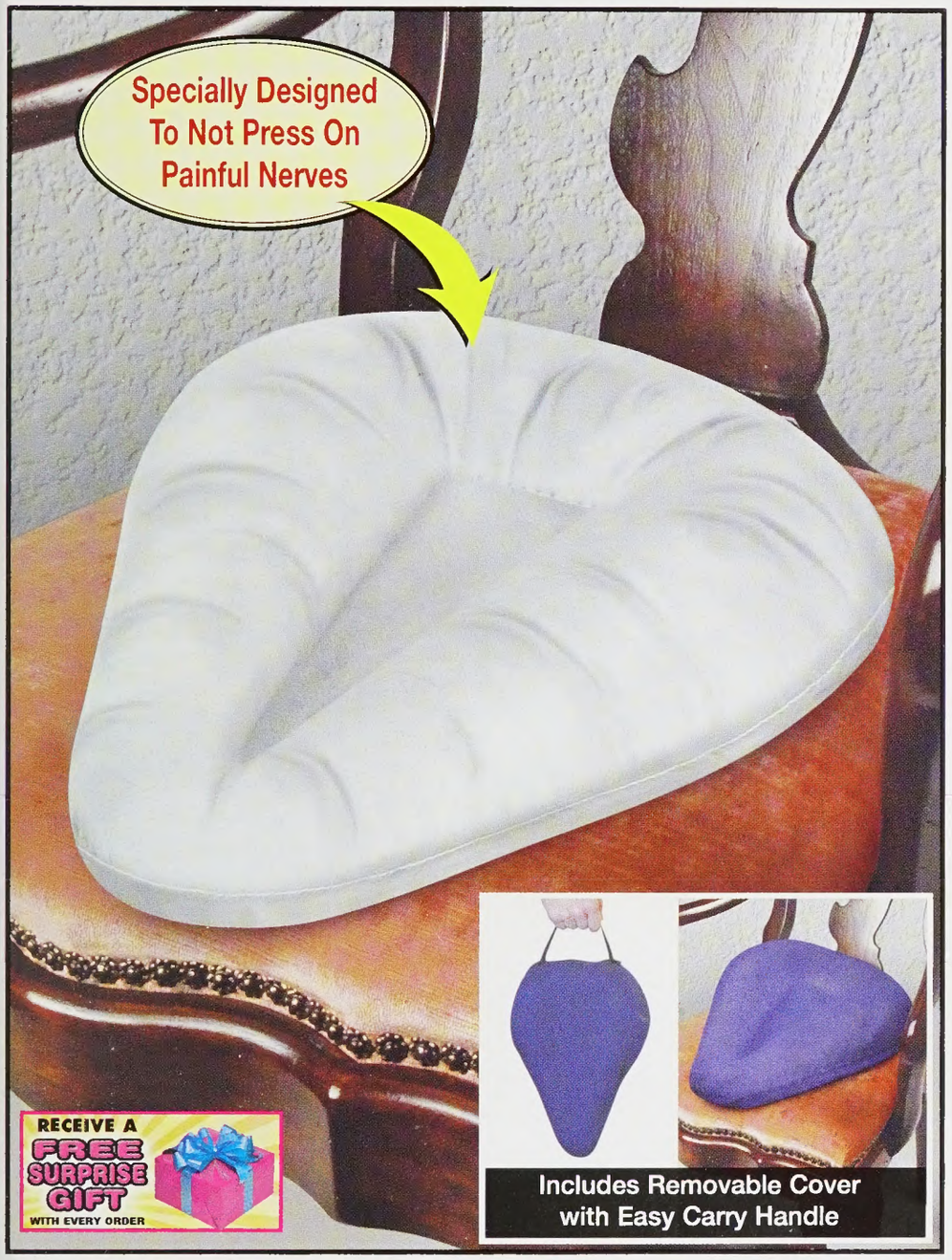
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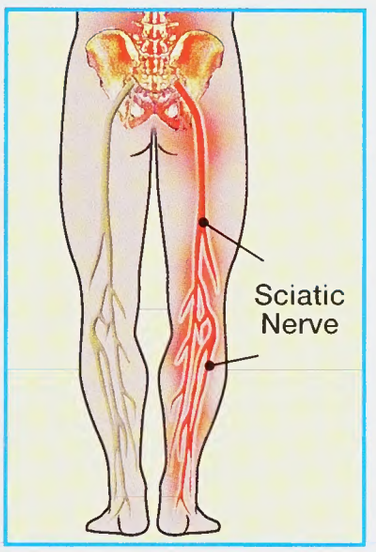

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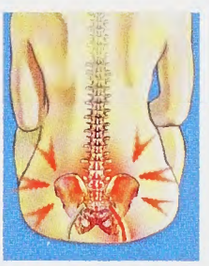

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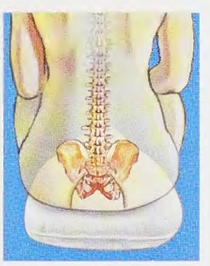

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